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R E M O N S T R A N C E S,

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P E T I T I O N S;

Commencing the 24th of JUNE, 1769,

Presented to the KING and PARLIAMENT,
from the Court of COMMON COUNCIL,

London I
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A N D T H E

L I V E R Y in Common Hall assembled,

W I T H H I S

M A J E S T Y ' S A N S W E R S:

L I K E W I S E

The S P E E C H to the K I N G,

Made by the late

Mr. Alderman B E C K F O R D,

When LORD MAYOR of the CITY of LONDON.

Printed by HENRY FENWICK, Printer to the Honourable
City of London.

A D D R E S S

REMOVALS

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THE SPEECH to the KING

and the other side.

Mr. William H. Clark, Esq.

William Joseph Maynor of the City of London.

City of London.

E S D A I L E, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Friday*, the Twenty-seventh Day of *March*, 1778.

ORDERED, That the Addreffes, Remon-
 strances, and Petitions, commencing the 24th
 of *June*, 1769, which have been presented to
 the Throne from this Court, and the Livery in
 Common Hall assembled, with his Majesty's
 Answers thereto; as likewise the Speech to the
 King, made by the late Mr. Alderman *Beck-*
ford, when Lord Mayor: And also the Peti-
 tion agreed by this Court, on the Third of
June, 1774; to be presented to the House of
 Commons against the *Quebec* Bill, be printed
 in Octavo, neatly bound, and a Copy thereof
 sent to every Member of this Court.

R I X.

E S D A I L E, *Mayor.*

A Common Council, holden in the Chamber
 of the *Guildhall*, of the City of *London*, on
Friday, the 10th Day of *April*, 1778.

ORDERED, That the Engagement to be en-
 tered into by the Representatives of this
 City in Parliament, settled by the Livery,
 in Common Hall assembled, on the 10th of
March, 1773; the Instructions to the Repre-
 sentatives, agreed to in Common Hall, on the
 24th of *June* following; the Letter from *Fran-*

cis Maseres, Esq; Agent to the Protestant Settlers in the Province of *Quebec*; and the Answer of the Court of Common Council to the said Mr. *Maseres*, in the Year 1775; the several Resolutions and Petitions from the said Court to the Houses of Commons and Lords, on the Bill to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*; the Letter from the General Committee of the Association, for the City and County of *New York*, read in Common Council, the 23d of *June*, 1775; the Letter from Lord *Hertford*, with Mr. Alderman *Wilkes*'s Answer to him as Lord Mayor, read in Common Hall, the 24th of *June*, 1775; the Resolutions thereon, and the Address agreed to the same Day, but not presented to his Majesty; and the Resolutions on the King's Answer to the Sheriffs, agreed to on the 4th of *July*, 1775; the Letter from the Congress at *Philadelphia*, and the Address to the Electors of *Great Britain*, agreed to in Common Hall, 29th *September*, 1775; the Thanks of the Common Council, and the Resolution for presenting Doctor *Price* with his Freedom, agreed to the 14th of *March*, 1776, and Doctor *Price*'s Answer thereto; be printed and neatly bound in Octavo, with the Addresses, Remonstrances, and Petitions, already ordered to be printed at the last Common Council; and that a Copy thereof be sent to every Member of this Court.

R I X.

ADDRESSES, REMONSTRANCES, and
PETITIONS, &c.

T U R N E R, *Mayor.*

In a Meeting or Assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the several Companies of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, at the *Guildhall* of the said City, on *Saturday*, the Twenty-fourth Day of *June*, 1769.

MR. *Michael Lovel* produced a Petition to his Majesty, which he said he had prepared with the Assistance of several Liverymen, a Motion was then made, that the said Petition be read, the same was read accordingly; and the Lord Mayor objecting to the Title of the Petition, being called, The Petition of the Lord Mayor, Commonalty, and Livery of the City of *London*, another Petition was produced, intituled, The humble Petition of the Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled; which was then read, and upon the Question being put, that this Petition be presented to his Majesty, the same was unanimously agreed to by holding up of Hands.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Petition of the Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Livery of the City of *London*, with all the Humility which is due from free Subjects to their lawful Sovereign, but with all the Anxiety which the Sense of the present Oppressions, and the just Dread of future Mischiefs produce in our Minds, beg Leave to lay before your Majesty some of those intolerable Grievances, which your People have suffered from the evil Conduct of those who have been entrusted with the Administration of your Majesty's Government, and from the secret unremitting Influence of the worst of Counsellors.

We should be wanting in our Duty to your Majesty, as well as to ourselves and our Posterity, should we forbear to represent to the Throne the desperate Attempts which have been, and are too successfully made, to destroy that Constitution, to the Spirit of which we owe the Relation which subsists between your Majesty and the Subjects of these Realms, and to subvert those sacred Laws which our Ancestors have sealed with their Blood.

Your Ministers, from corrupt Principles, and in Violation of every Duty, have, by various
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enumerated Means, invaded our invaluable and unalienable Right of Trial by Jury.

They have, with Impunity, issued General Warrants, and violently seized Persons and private Papers.

They have rendered the Laws non-effective to our Security, by evading the *Habeas Corpus*.

They have caused Punishments, and even perpetual Imprisonment to be inflicted without Trial, Conviction, or Sentence.

They have brought into Disrepute the Civil Magistracy, by the Appointment of Persons who are, in many Respects, unqualified for that important Trust, and have thereby purposely furnished a Pretence for calling in the Aid of a military Power.

They avow and endeavour to establish a Maxim, absolutely inconsistent with our Constitution; "That an Occasion for effectually employing a military Force, always presents itself, when the Civil Power is trifled with or insulted." And by a fatal and false Application of this Maxim, they have wantonly and wickedly sacrificed the Lives of many of your Majesty's innocent Subjects, and have prostituted your Majesty's

sacred Name and Authority, to justify, applaud, and recommend their own illegal and bloody Actions.

They have screened more than one Murderer from Punishment, and in its Place have unnaturally substituted Reward.

They have established numberless unconstitutional Regulations and Taxations in our Colonies; they have caused a Revenue to be raised in some of them by Prerogative; they have appointed Civil Law Judges to try Revenue Causes, and to be paid from out of the Condemnation Money.

After having insulted and defeated the Law on different Occasions, and by different Contrivances, both at Home and Abroad, they have at length compleated their Design, by violently wresting from the People the last sacred Right we had left, the Right of Election, by the unprecedented seating of a Candidate, notoriously set up and chosen only by themselves; they have thereby taken from your Subjects all Hopes of parliamentary Redress, and have left us no Resource, under GOD, but in your Majesty.

All this they have been able to effect by Corruption; by a scandalous Misapplication and
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Embezzlement of the public Treasure, and a shameful Prostitution of public Honours and Employments; procuring Deficiencies of the Civil List to be made good without Examination, and instead of punishing, conferring Honours on a Pay-master, the public Defaulter of unaccounted Millions.

From an unfeigned Sense of the Duty we owe to your Majesty, and to our Country, we have ventured thus humbly to lay before the Throne these great and important Truths, which it has been the Business of your Ministers to conceal. We most earnestly beseech your Majesty to grant us Redress: It is for the Purpose of Redress alone, and for such Occasions as the present, that those great and extensive Powers are entrusted to the Crown, by the Wisdom of that Constitution, which your Majesty's illustrious Family was chosen to defend, and which, we trust in GOD, it will for ever continue to support.

BECK,

BECKFORD, *Mayor.*

In a Meeting or Assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen and Liverymen, of the several Companies of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, at the *Guildhall* of the said City, on *Tuesday*, the Sixth Day of *March*, 1770.

An Address, Remonstrance, and Petition to the King, being produced, a Motion was made that the same be read, and the Question being put by Mr. Common Serjeant, it was resolved in the Affirmative, whereupon the same was read and agreed to as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled.

May it please your Majesty,

WE have already in our Petition dutifully represented to your Majesty, the chief Injuries we have sustained. We are unwilling to believe that your Majesty can slight the Desires of

of your People, or be regardless of their Affection, and deaf to their Complaints. Yet their Complaints remain unanswered; their Injuries are confirmed; and the only Judge removeable at the Pleasure of the Crown, has been dismissed from his high Office, for defending in Parliament, the Law and the Constitution.

We, therefore, venture once more to address ourselves to your Majesty, as to the Father of your People; as to him who must be both able and willing to redress our Grievances; and we repeat our Application with the greater Propriety, because we see the Instruments of our Wrongs, who have carried into Execution the Measures of which we complain, more particularly distinguished by your Majesty's royal Bounty and Favour.

Under the same secret and malign Influence, which through each successive Administration has defeated every good, and suggested every bad Intention, the Majority of the House of Commons have deprived your People of their dearest Rights.

They have done a Deed more ruinous in its Consequences than the levying of Ship Money by *Charles* the First; or the dispensing Power assumed by *James* the Second. A Deed, which must vitiate all the future Proceedings of this Parliament.

Parliament, for the Acts of the Legislature itself can no more be valid without a legal House of Commons, than without a legal Prince upon the Throne.

Representatives of the People are essential to the making of Laws, and there is a Time when it is morally demonstrable, that Men cease to be Representatives; that Time is now arrived: The present House of Commons do not represent the People.

We owe to your Majesty, an Obedience under the Restrictions of the Laws for the calling and duration of Parliaments; and your Majesty owes to us, that our Representation, free from the Force of Arms or Corruption, should be preserved to us in Parliament. It was for this we successfully struggled under *James* the Second; for this we seated, and have faithfully supported your Majesty's Family on the Throne: The People have been invariably uniform in their Object, though the different Mode of Attack has called for a different Defence.

Under *James* the Second, they complained that the Sitting of Parliament was interrupted, because it was not corruptly subservient to his Designs: We complain now, that the Sitting of this Parliament is not interrupted, because it is corrupted.
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ly subservient to the Designs of your Majesty's Ministers. Had the Parliament, under *James* the Second, been as submissive to his Commands, as the Parliament is at this Day to the Dictates of a Minister; instead of Clamours for its Meeting, the Nation would have rung, as now, with Outcries for its Dissolution.

The Forms of the Constitution, like those of Religion, were not established for the Form's sake, but for the Substance; and we call GOD and Men to witness, that as we do not owe our Liberty to those nice and subtle Distinctions, which Places and Pensions, and lucrative Employments have invented; so neither will we be deprived of it by them; but as it was gained by the stern Virtue of our Ancestors, by the Virtue of their Descendants it shall be preserved.

Since, therefore, the Misdeeds of your Majesty's Ministers, in violating the Freedom of Election, and depraving the noble Constitution of Parliaments, are notorious, as well as subversive of the fundamental Laws and Liberties of this Realm; and since your Majesty, both in Honour and Justice, is obliged inviolably to preserve them, according to the Oath made to GOD and your Subjects at your Coronation: We your Majesty's Remonstrants assure ourselves, that your Majesty will restore the constitutional Government and Quiet of your People, by dissolving
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this Parliament, and removing those evil Ministers for ever from your Councils.

*His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 14th of March,
1770.*

I shall always be ready to receive the Requests, and to listen to the Complaints of my Subjects ; but it gives me great Concern, to find that any of them should have been so far misled as to offer me an Address and Remonstrance, the Contents of which I cannot but consider as disrespectful to me, injurious to my Parliament, and irreconcilable to the Principles of the Constitution.

I have ever made the Law of the Land the Rule of my Conduct, esteeming it my chief Glory to reign over a free People : With this View, I have always been careful, as well to execute faithfully the Trust reposed in me, as to avoid even the Appearance of invading any of those Powers which the Constitution has placed in other Hands. It is only by persevering in such a Conduct, that I can either discharge my own Duty, or secure to my Subjects the free Enjoyment of those Rights which my Family were called to defend, and, while I act upon these Principles, I shall have a Right to expect, and I am confident I shall continue to receive, the steady and affectionate Support of my People.

B E C K F O R D, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Monday*, the 14th Day of *May*, 1770.

A Motion was made and Question put, that an humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, be presented to his Majesty, touching the violated Right of Election, and the Applications of the Livery of *London*, and his Majesty's Answer thereupon, the same was resolved in the Affirmative; which Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, follows in these Words :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

May it please your Majesty,

WHEN your Majesty's most faithful Subjects, the Citizens of *London*, whose Loyalty and Affection has been so often and so effectually
proved

proved and experienced by the illustrious House of *Brunswick*, are labouring under the Weight of that Displeasure, which your Majesty has been advised to lay upon them, in the Answer given from the Throne to their late humble Application, we feel ourselves constrained with all Humility to approach the Royal Father of his People.

Conscious, Sire, of the purest Sentiments of Veneration which they entertain for your Majesty's Person, we are deeply concerned that what the Law allows, and the Constitution teaches, hath been misconstrued into Disrespect to your Majesty, by the Instruments of that Influence which shakes the Realm.

Perplexed and astonished as we are, by the awful Sentence of Censure, lately passed upon the Citizens of *London*, in your Majesty's Answer from the Throne, we cannot, without surrendering all that is dear to *Englishmen*, forbear most humbly to supplicate, that your Majesty will deign to grant a more favourable Interpretation to this dutiful, though persevering Claim to our invaded Birth-rights; nothing doubting, that the Benignity of your Majesty's Nature, will to our unspeakable Comfort, at length break through all the secret and visible Machinations, to which the City of *London* owes its late severe

severe Repulse, and that your kingly Justice and fatherly Tendernefs, will disclaim the malignant and pernicious Advice which suggested the Answer we deplore; an Advice of most dangerous Tendency, in as much, as thereby the Exercise of the clearest Rights of the Subject, namely, to petition the King for Redress of Grievances, to complain of the Violation of the Freedom of Election, and to pray Dissolution of Parliament, to point out Mal-practices in Administration, and to urge the Removal of evil Ministers, hath by the Generality of one compendious Word been indiscriminately checked with Reprimand; and your Majesty's afflicted Citizens of *London*, have heard from the Throne itself, that the Contents of their humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, laying their Complaints and Injuries at the Feet of their Sovereign, cannot be but considered by your Majesty, as disrespectful to yourself, injurious to your Parliament, and irreconcilable to the Principles of the Constitution.

Your Majesty cannot disapprove that we here assert the clearest Principles of the Constitution, against the insidious Attempt of evil Counsellors, to perplex, confound, and shake them. We are determined to abide by those Rights and Liberties, which our Forefathers bravely vindicated at the ever memorable Revolution, and

which their Sons will always resolutely defend: We therefore now renew, at the Foot of the Throne, our Claim to the indispenfible Right of the Subject, a full, free, and unmutilated Parliament, legally chosen in all its Members: A Right, which this House of Commons have manifestly violated, depriving, at their Will and Pleasure, the County of *Middlesex*, of one of its legal Representatives, and arbitrarily nominating, as a Knight of the Shire, a Person not elected by a Majority of the Freeholders. As the only Constitutional Means of Reparation now left for the injured Electors of *Great Britain*, we implore, with most urgent Supplication, the Dissolution of this present Parliament, the Removal of evil Ministers, and the total Extinction of that fatal Influence which has caused such a national Discontent. In the mean Time, Sire, we offer our constant Prayers to Heaven, that your Majesty may reign, as Kings can only reign, in and by the Hearts of a loyal, dutiful, and free People.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 23d May, 1770.

I should have been wanting to the Public, as well as to myself, if I had not expressed my Dissatisfaction at the late Address.

MY Sentiments on that Subject continue the same, and I should ill deserve to be considered as
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the Father of my People, if I should suffer myself to be prevailed upon to make such an Use of my Prerogative, as I cannot but think inconsistent with the Interest, and dangerous to the Constitution of the Kingdom.

BECKFORD, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Friday*, the 25th Day of *May*, 1770.

The Lord Mayor being called upon to acquaint this Court what he had said to his Majesty, after receiving his Majesty's Answer to their Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, the same was accordingly produced, which being read, was ordered to be entered into the Journal of this Court, in the following Words:

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WILL your Majesty be pleased so far to condescend as to permit the Mayor of your loyal

City of *London*, to declare in your Royal Presence, on Behalf of his Fellow Citizens, how much the bare Apprehension of your Majesty's Displeasure would at all Times affect their Minds. The Declaration of that Displeasure, has already filled them with inexpressible Anxiety and with the deepest Affliction. Permit me, Sire, to assure your Majesty, that your Majesty has not in all your Dominions any Subjects more faithful, more dutiful, or more affectionate to your Majesty's Person and Family, or more ready to sacrifice their Lives and Fortunes in the Maintenance of the true Honor and Dignity of your Crown.

We do, therefore, with the greatest Humility and Submission, most earnestly supplicate your Majesty, that you will not dismiss us from your Presence, without expressing a more favourable Opinion of your faithful Citizens, and without some Comfort, without some Prospect, at least of Redress.

Permit me, Sire, farther to observe, that whoever has already dared, or shall hereafter endeavour by false Insinuations and Suggestions, to alienate your Majesty's Affections from your loyal Subjects in general, and from the City of *London* in particular, and to withdraw your Confidence in and Regard for your People, is an Enemy
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to your Majesty's Person and Family; a Violator of the public Peace, and a Betrayer of our happy Constitution, as it was established at the glorious Revolution.

A Motion was made, and Question put, That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, to congratulate him on the safe Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Princess; the same was unanimously resolved in the Affirmative; which Address is as follows:

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE wait upon your Majesty with our sincere Congratulations on the happy Delivery of our most gracious Queen, and on the Birth of another Princess, and to assure your Majesty, that there

are not in all your Dominions any Subjects more faithful, more dutiful, and more affectionate to your Majesty's Person and Family, or more ready to sacrifice their Lives and Fortunes in the Maintenance of the true Honor and Dignity of your Crown.

Long may your Majesty reign the true Guardian of the Liberties of this free Country, and be the Instrument, in the Hands of Providence, of transmitting to our Posterity, those invaluable Rights and Privileges, which are the Birth-right of the Subjects of this Kingdom.

*His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 30th Day
of May, 1770.*

I receive with great Satisfaction your Congratulations on the happy Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of a Princess; and I return you my hearty Thanks for your Duty and Affection to my Person and Family, and the Zeal for the true Honor and Dignity of my Crown, which you express upon this Occasion.

The City of *London*, entertaining these loyal Sentiments, may be always assured of my Protection.

CROSBY,

C R O S B Y, Mayor.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Thursday*, the 15th Day of *November*, 1770.

A Motion was made, and Question put, That an humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, be presented to his Majesty, by this Court, touching the violated Right of Election, and praying a Dissolution of the present Parliament; the same was declared to be carried in the Affirmative: And a Division being demanded and granted, there appeared seven Aldermen and seventy-one Commoners, besides the two Tellers, for the Affirmative; and eight Aldermen and thirty-eight Commoners, besides the two Tellers, for the Negative; whereupon his Lordship declared the same to be resolved in the Affirmative; which Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, was agreed to, as follows:

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Com-

mons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, most humbly beg Leave to approach your Majesty, and most dutifully to lay again at the Foot of the Throne, our aggravated Grievances and earnest Supplications. Although through Prevalence of evil Counsellors, our just Complaints have hitherto met with Repulse and Reprimand, nevertheless, we will not forego the last Consolation of the unhappy Hope, that our Sufferings will at length find an End from the innate Goodness of your Majesty; the gracious Effects of which have, to our unspeakable Grief, been intercepted from your injured People, by a fatal Conspiracy of malevolent Influences around the Throne.

We, therefore, again implore your Majesty in this sad Crisis, with Hearts big with Sorrow and warm with Affection, not to be induced by false Suggestions contrary to the Benignity of your royal Nature, to shut up your paternal Compassion and Justice against the Prayers of unhappy Subjects, claiming, as we now again presume to do, with equal Humility and freeborn Plainness, our indisputable Birth-rights, Freedom of Election, and Right of Petitioning.

We have seen the known Law of the Land, the sure Guardian of Right, trodden down, and by the Influence of daring Ministers arbitrary Discretion

Discretion, the Law of Tyrants set up, to overthrow the Choice of the Electors, and nominate to a Seat in Parliament, a Person not chosen by the People.

Your Majesty's Throne is founded on the free Exercise of this great Right of Election; to preserve it inviolate is true Loyalty; to undermine and destroy it, is the most compendious Treason against the whole Constitution.

Deign then, Sir, amidst the complicated Dangers which surround us, to restore Satisfaction and Harmony to your faithful Subjects; by removing from your Majesty's Presence all evil Counsellors, and by recurring to the recent Sense of your People taken in a new Parliament.

By such an Exertion alone of your own royal Wisdom and Virtue, the various Wounds of the Constitution can be effectually healed, and by Representatives freely chosen, and acting independently, the salutary Awe of Parliament cannot fail to secure to us that sacred Bulwark of *English* Liberty, the Trial by Jury, against the dangerous Designs of those, who have dared openly to attempt to mutilate its Power and destroy its Efficacy.

So

So will Dissatisfaction and national Weakness change at once into public Confidence, Order, Strength, and Dignity ; and this boasted Constitution of *England*, so late the Envy of Nations, no longer hold forth to the Derision of *Europe*, Electors not suffered to elect, Juries forbid to judge of the whole Matter in Issue before them, and dutiful Petitioners remonstrating the most flagrant Grievances, branded by the Ministers who oppress them, as seditious Infractors of that Constitution we religiously revere, and together with your Majesty's sacred Person, will unceasingly defend against all Enemies and Betrayers.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 21st Day of November, 1770.

AS I have seen no Reason to alter the Opinion expressed in my Answer to your former Address upon this Subject, I cannot comply with the Prayer of your Petition.

CROSBY,

C R O S B Y, Mayor.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Wednesday*, the 5th Day of *June*, 1771.

A Motion was made and Question put, That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, to congratulate him on the safe Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Prince; the same was resolved in the Affirmative; which Address was agreed to, as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, embrace this joyful Occasion of approaching your Majesty with our sincere Congratulation on the safe Delivery of the Queen, and the auspicious Birth of another Prince.

Your

Your Majesty's ever loyal and faithful Citizens of *London*, exceeded by none of your Subjects, in honest and anxious Zeal for your Majesty's Happiness, and the Glory and Prosperity of your Reign, rejoice in all Events which augment your Majesty's domestic Felicity, firmly trusting that every Increase of the august House of *Brunswick*, will prove an additional Security to our Religion, and the great Charter of Liberty, which in Consequence of the glorious and necessary Revolution, that illustrious House was chosen to defend.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 12th of June, 1771.

I thank you for this dutiful Address, and for your Congratulations on the safe Delivery of the Queen and the Birth of another Prince.

It gives me great Satisfaction, to find that you consider the Increase of my Family as an additional Security to our Religion, and to that Liberty, which I look upon with Pleasure as the Basis of my Government, and which I shall always think my Honor and Interest concerned to defend.

CROSBY,

C R O S B Y, *Mayor.*

In a Meeting or Assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the several Companies of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, at the *Guilaball* of the said City, on *Monday*, the 24th Day of *June*, 1771.

A Motion was made, and Question put, That an humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, be presented to his Majesty from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled; the same was resolved in the Affirmative.

And an humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition to his Majesty, being produced, a Motion was made that the same be read, and the Question being put by Mr. Town Clerk, it was resolved in the Affirmative; whereupon the same was read, as follows:

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled.

Most

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, in the Anguish of our Hearts, beg Leave to approach your Royal Person, and deeply to lament, that we still suffer, together with many others, all those great and unparalleled Grievances, which we have before submitted to your Majesty, with the Hope of a full and speedy Redress from our Sovereign, as the Father of his People.

The same arbitrary House of Commons, which violated the sacred Right of Election, and seated among themselves, as a Representative of the People, a Man who was never chosen into Parliament; have the last Session proceeded to the most extravagant Outrages against the Constitution of this Kingdom, and the Liberty of the Subject, of which your Majesty is by Law, the great Guardian. They have ventured to imprison our chief Magistrate, and one of our Aldermen, for disobeying their illegal Orders, and not violating the holy Sanction of their Oaths to this great City, as well as their Duty to their Country. They have, by the most artful Suggestions, prevailed upon your Majesty, to suffer your Royal Name to give a pretended Authority to a
Procla-

Proclamation, issued at their exprefs Desire, contrary to the known Laws of the Land. At length they proceeded to the enormous Wickedness of erasing a judicial Record, in order to stop the Course of Justice, and to frustrate all Possibility of Relief by an Appeal to those Laws, which are the noblest Birth-right and Inheritance of all the Subjects of this Realm.

During the unjust Confinement of our Representatives, they proceeded to a Law, depriving the Citizens of *London*, of a considerable Part of their Property in the Soil of the River *Thames*, solemnly granted to them by divers Charters, and confirmed by the Authority of Parliament, and under Colour of Equity, inserted in that Law an unusual saving Clause, subversive of the known and established Laws of Property; they have, without any Pretence of an Abuse, superseded the Conservacy of the River *Thames*, in the Liberty which the Citizens of *London* have enjoyed from the Conquest.

We, therefore, your Remonstrants, again humbly supplicate your Majesty to restore our Rights, and to give Peace to this distracted Nation, by a speedy Dissolution of the Parliament, and by removing your present wicked and despotic Ministers for ever from your Councils and Presence.

His

*His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 10th of
July, 1771.*

“ I shall ever be ready to exert my Preroga-
“ tive, as far as I can constitutionally, in redres-
“ sing any real Grievances of my Subjects ; and
“ the City of *London* will always find me disposed
“ to listen to any of their well-founded Com-
“ plaints: It is, therefore, with Concern that I
“ see a Part of my Subjects still so far misled
“ and deluded, as to renew, in such reprehensible
“ Terms, a Request, with which I have repeat-
“ edly declared, I cannot comply.”

TOWN

T O W N S E N D, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Thursday*, the 4th Day of *February*, 1773.

A Motion being made, and Question put, that an humble Address of Congratulation, be presented to his Majesty by this Court, on the safe Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Prince; the same was unanimously resolved in the Affirmative, which Address was agreed to, as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Majesty's loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, approach your Majesty with their Congratulations on the happy Delivery of their most amiable Queen, and the Birth of another Prince.

Your faithful Citizens of *London*, ever zealous of your Majesty's Happiness, and the true
C
Honor

Honor and Prosperity of your Reign, will continue to rejoice in every Member which adds to your Majesty's domestic Felicity. And they hope, that every Branch of the august House of *Brunswick*, will add further Security to those sacred Laws and Liberties, which their Ancestors would not suffer to be violated with Impunity, and which, in Consequence of the glorious and necessary Revolution, that illustrious House was called forth to protect and defend.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 5th Day of February, 1773.

I thank you for this dutiful Address, and your Congratulations on the happy Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Prince. The Religion, Laws, and Liberties of my People, have always been, and ever shall be the constant Objects of my Care and Attention.

TOWN.

T O W N S E N D, *Mayor.*

In a Meeting or Assembly of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the several Companies of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, at the *Guildhall* of the said City, on *Thursday*, the 11th Day of *March*, 1773.

Mr. *William Bishop* acquainted the Livery, that at a previous Meeting of the Livery, at the *Half-Moon Tavern*, in *Cheapside*, an Address, Remonstrance, and Petition to his Majesty was agreed to, and ordered to be laid before the Livery in Common Hall assembled, for their Approbation. And a Motion was made that the same be read, and the Question being put, it was resolved in the Affirmative, whereupon the same was read and agreed to as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, beg Leave to approach the Throne with the Respect becoming a free People, zealously attached to the Laws and Constitution of their Country, and the Parliamentary Right of your Majesty to the Crown of these Realms.

We desire, with all Humility, in the Grief and Anguish of our Hearts, to submit to your Majesty, that the many Grievances and Injuries we have suffered from your Ministers, still remain unredressed; nor has the public Justice of the Kingdom received the least Satisfaction, for the frequent atrocious Violations of the Laws which have been committed in your Reign, by your Ministers, with a daring Contempt of every Principle human and divine. Your People have, with the deepest Concern, observed, that their former humble Petitions and Remonstrances were received with a Neglect and Disregard, very hardly brooked by the high Spirits of a great and powerful Nation; but the Hopes of Redress still encouraging us to persevere, we again supplicate your Majesty, to listen to the Voice of your aggrieved Subjects, in Vindication of your own and the Nation's Honor, against your despotic and
corrupt

corrupt Ministers, who have perverted the Fountains of public Justice, and undermined the Foundations of our excellent Constitution. Our Representatives, who were chosen to be the Guardians of our Rights, have invaded our most sacred Privileges. The Right of being represented in Parliament, is the inherent, inalienable Privilege, as well as peculiar Glory of the free born Inhabitants of this Country, and a Person qualified by Law, a Magistrate of this City, was duly elected a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Middlesex*, by a great Majority of legal Votes, yet has been excluded from the House of Commons, by a Resolution of that House; and a Candidate, who had only a few Votes, declared the Representative of the Electors of the said County, against their Consent, through the like corrupt Influence of the same Minister. The chief Magistrate, and one of the Aldermen of this City, were imprisoned for not obeying the illegal Mandates of an arbitrary House of Commons, and violating the solemn Oaths they had taken for the Preservation of the Liberties and Franchises of the Capital of your Majesty's Dominions. We recal to your Majesty's Remembrance with Horror, that unparalleled Act of Tyranny, the erasing a judicial Record, in order to stop the Course of Justice; to introduce a System of Power against Right; and to tear up by the Roots, Truth and Law from the Earth.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, beg Leave to approach the Throne with the Respect becoming a free People, zealously attached to the Laws and Constitution of their Country, and the Parliamentary Right of your Majesty to the Crown of these Realms.

We desire, with all Humility, in the Grief and Anguish of our Hearts, to submit to your Majesty, that the many Grievances and Injuries we have suffered from your Ministers, still remain unredressed; nor has the public Justice of the Kingdom received the least Satisfaction, for the frequent atrocious Violations of the Laws which have been committed in your Reign, by your Ministers, with a daring Contempt of every Principle human and divine. Your People have, with the deepest Concern, observed, that their former humble Petitions and Remonstrances were received with a Neglect and Disregard, very hardly brooked by the high Spirits of a great and powerful Nation; but the Hopes of Redress still encouraging us to persevere, we again supplicate your Majesty, to listen to the Voice of your aggrieved Subjects, in Vindication of your own and the Nation's Honor, against your despotic and
corrupt

corrupt Ministers, who have perverted the Fountains of public Justice, and undermined the Foundations of our excellent Constitution. Our Representatives, who were chosen to be the Guardians of our Rights, have invaded our most sacred Privileges. The Right of being represented in Parliament, is the inherent, inalienable Privilege, as well as peculiar Glory of the free born Inhabitants of this Country, and a Person qualified by Law, a Magistrate of this City, was duly elected a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Middlesex*, by a great Majority of legal Votes, yet has been excluded from the House of Commons, by a Resolution of that House; and a Candidate, who had only a few Votes, declared the Representative of the Electors of the said County, against their Consent, through the like corrupt Influence of the same Minister. The chief Magistrate, and one of the Aldermen of this City, were imprisoned for not obeying the illegal Mandates of an arbitrary House of Commons, and violating the solemn Oaths they had taken for the Preservation of the Liberties and Franchises of the Capital of your Majesty's Dominions. We recal to your Majesty's Remembrance with Horror, that unparalleled Act of Tyranny, the erasing a judicial Record, in order to stop the Course of Justice; to introduce a System of Power against Right; and to tear up by the Roots, Truth and Law from the Earth.

We, therefore, your Remonstrants, again supplicate your Majesty, to employ the only Remedy now left by the Constitution, the Exercise of that salutary Power with which you are entrusted by Law, the dissolving of the present Parliament, and the Removal of those evil Counsellors, who advised the Measures so generally odious to the Nation; and your Majesty, as the true Guardian of our Rights, shall ever reign in the Hearts of a grateful People.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 26th of March, 1773.

I have the Satisfaction to think that my People do not doubt of my Readiness to attend to their Complaints, or of my ardent Desire to promote their real Happiness, which I cannot more effectually do, than by resisting every Attempt to sow groundless Jealousies among them.

Your Petition is so void of Foundation, and is, besides, conceived in such disrespectful Terms, that I am convinced you do not, yourselves, seriously imagine it can be complied with.

Further

Further Proceedings of the Common
Hall, on *Thursday*, the 11th of
March, 1773.

WE, the Liverymen of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, taking into our serious Consideration, the pernicious Effects of long Parliaments, and being convinced, that the most likely and effectual Remedy for the many Grievances under which the People of this Country have so long laboured, is to be found in a frequent Appeal to the People by short Parliaments; Do resolve, that we will not vote for, countenance, or support, either directly or indirectly, any Candidate or Candidates, to represent this City in Parliament, until he shall have, previous to his Standing forth as a Candidate, solemnly assented to, and signed an Engagement for shortening the Duration of Parliaments.

Resolved, That the Engagement be in the Words following :

I *A. B.* do most solemnly engage my Word and Honor, that as long as I live, I will faithfully and sincerely endeavour, to the utmost of my Power, to promote and procure, and having procured, to maintain and continue a perpetual

Act of Parliament, to shorten the Duration of Parliaments, and to restore and preserve to the People their constitutional Right of an annual, or, (if that cannot be obtained) at least a triennial Choice of Representatives; and if I am Member of either House of Parliament, when a Motion for the above Purpose shall be made, I will not fail to attend, and give my utmost Support to such Motion.

T O W N S E N D, *Mayor.*

In a Meeting or Assembly of the Mayor and Liverymen of the several Companies of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, at the *Guildhall* of the said City, on *Thursday*, the 24th Day of *June*, 1773.

A Liveryman acquainted this Common Hall, that on the 24th of *June* last, the Livery of this City, in Common Hall assembled, had agreed to Instructions to their Representatives in Parliament, which were now read, and the Question being put, that the said Instructions be recorded,

corded, and that the Town Clerk be ordered to enter the same ; it was resolved in the Affirmative, and ordered accordingly, which Instructions are as follow :

To Sir *Robert Ladbroke*, Knight, the Right Honourable *Thomas Harley*, *Barlow Trecothick*, and *Richard Oliver*, Esquires.

Gentlemen,

THE arbitrary Strides of Government, which seem daily increasing, to the Prejudice of our Liberties, cannot fail of alarming us in the most sensible Manner. Such indeed is the dismal Complexion of the Times, that to the whole World we appear even on the Brink of Slavery.

To enumerate the several Acts which have fulfilled the present Reign, would be much too tedious at present ; suffice it therefore to say, that it is impossible for us to behold with Indifference the Laws of our Country daringly trampled on, and the Lives of innocent People wantonly taken away.

Had this Nation been blessed with a virtuous House of Commons, we should by no Means have experienced the Oppression, which for thirteen Years past, we have unhappily laboured under : To long Parliaments, therefore, and a venal

nal Majority, we may, with great Justice, attribute the whole of our Misfortunes. In what Light can we behold an House of Commons, which becomes so prostitute, as to be capable of voting a Minority to be a Majority? An House, which could, without the least Colour of Justice, tyrannically imprison a Subject between three or four Months in a distempered Gaol, and inhumanly refuse him the same Liberty, which had been granted to two Felons accused of wilful Murder? An House, which, devoid of all Decency, could force the poor, timid Servant of a Corporation, to erase a judicial Record? An House, that could even punish two Members of its own Body, in a most arbitrary Manner, for acting with Integrity in a judicial Capacity; nay, for adhering to their Charters and their Oaths, and virtuously administering Justice. Indeed fatal Experience hath taught us, that what was intended as a Bulwark in Defence of our Liberties, is now become a mere Engine of Oppression; and those Weapons of Defence, which have been entrusted into the Hands of our Representatives, to oppose the Encroachments of the Prerogative of the Crown, have been infamously perverted to stab the Vitals of the Constitution.

When we made Choice of you, Sirs, to transact our Business in Parliament, we considered all of you to be possessed of Fortune sufficient to render

der you Independent; but such is the Depravity of the present Age, that the more Wealthy seem the easiest to be corrupted.

Although some of you may have approved yourselves worthy of the Confidence reposed in you; yet others, we are sorry to be obliged to observe, have been deficient in their Duty. It becomes necessary, therefore, that we should exercise our indisputable Right of instructing you, our Representatives.

A worthy Alderman of this City, whose political Principles seem of the purest Kind, and as such, denote him a fit Example for other Members of the Legislature, convinced of the extreme Danger of entrusting any Body of Men with septennial Powers, has more than once attempted to shorten the Duration of Parliaments; but with Regret we reflect, that out of five hundred and fifty Members, not more than Fourscore could at any Time be found, possessed of Virtue sufficient to support so salutary a Measure: As we have no doubt of Mr. *Sawbridge's* renewing his Motion next Winter, for the same laudable Purpose, we do insist that each of you afford him all possible Support, in order to restore us to our ancient Right of annually electing our Representatives in Parliament.

B U L L

B U L L, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Thursday*, the 3d Day of *March*, 1774.

A Motion being made, and Question put, That an humble Address of Congratulation, be presented to his Majesty, by this Court, on the safe Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Prince, the same was resolved in the Affirmative; which Address was agreed to, as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of your antient City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, beg Leave to approach your Majesty's sacred Person with our warmest Congratulations, on the happy Delivery of our most excellent Queen, and the auspicious Birth of another Prince.

With

With Gratitude to the divine Goodness, we behold the Increase of your Majesty's august House, as it augments your Majesty's domestic Felicity, and gives a more permanent Security to the civil and religious Liberties of your People.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 4th Day of March, 1774.

I receive with Pleasure this dutiful and affectionate Address, your Congratulations, and the Sentiments which you express on the further Increase of my Family, cannot fail of affording me great Satisfaction.

B U L L, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Friday*, the 3d Day of *June*, 1774.

A Motion being made, and Question put, That this Court doth agree to Petition the Honourable House of Commons, that the Bill now depending before that Honourable House, intituled, "An Act for making more effectual Provision for the Government of the Province of *Quebec*, in *North America*," may not

not pass into a Law, the same was resolved in the Affirmative, which Petition was agreed to as follows :

*To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners are deeply concerned, and much alarmed to find there is now a Bill depending before this Honourable House, intituled, " An Act for making more effectual Provision for " the Government of the Province of *Quebec*, in " *North America*," which in all civil Cases takes away the Exercise of the *English* Law, and that sacred Part of it, the Trial by Jury, and substitutes in its stead the *French* Law of *Canada*, whereby the Freedom of the Person and Security of the Property of his Majesty's Subjects are rendered precarious.

That if this Bill passes into a Law, the Roman Catholic will be the only legal established Religion, without any Provision being made for the free Exercise of the Protestant Religion, which may prove greatly injurious and oppressive to his Majesty's Protestant Subjects, who
do

do now, or may hereafter reside in the said Province.

That the legislative Power is vested solely in Persons appointed during Pleasure by the Crown, which is totally inconsistent with the Liberty and Principles of the *English* Constitution.

Your Petitioners, therefore, most humbly pray, that the said Bill may not pass into a Law.

B U L L, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Saturday*, the 18th Day of *June*, 1774.

A Motion being made, and Question put, That this Court doth agree to apply to his Majesty by Address and Petition, praying that his Majesty will be pleased not to give his Royal Assent to the Bill, intituled, "An Act for
" making more effectual Provision for the Go-
" vernment of the Province of *Quebec*, in
" *North America*," the same was unanimously resolved

resolved in the Affirmative; which Address and Petition was agreed to, as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, are exceedingly alarmed that a Bill has passed your two Houses of Parliament, intituled, "An Act for making more effectual Provision for the Government of the Province of *Quebec*, "in *North America*," which we apprehend to be entirely subversive of the great fundamental Principles of the Constitution of the *British* Monarchy, as well as of the Authority of various solemn Acts of the Legislature.

WE beg Leave to observe, that the *English* Law, and that wonderful Effort of human Wisdom, the Trial by Jury, are not admitted by this Bill in any civil Cases; and the *French* Law of *Canada*, is imposed on all the Inhabitants of that extensive Province, by which both the Persons and Properties of very many of your Majesty's Subjects are rendered insecure and precarious.

We

We humbly conceive that this Bill, if passed into a Law, will be contrary not only to the Compact entered into with the numerous Settlers of the reformed Religion, who were invited into the said Province, under the sacred Promise of enjoying the Benefit of the Laws of your Realm of *England*, but likewise repugnant to your Royal Proclamation of the 7th of *October*, 1763, for the speedy settling the said new Government.

That, consistent with the public Faith pledged by the said Proclamation, your Majesty cannot erect and constitute Courts of Judicature and public Justice, for the hearing and determining all Cases, as well civil as criminal, within the said Province, but as near as may be agreeable to the Laws of *England*; nor can any Laws, Statutes or Ordinances for the public Peace, Welfare and good Government of the said Province, be made, constituted and ordained, but according to the Laws of this Realm.

That the Roman Catholic Religion, which is known to be idolatrous and bloody, is established by this Bill, and no legal Provision is made for the free Exercise of our reformed Faith, nor the Security of our Protestant Fellow-subjects of the Church of *England*, in the true Worship of Almighty GOD, according to their Consciences.

D

That

That your Majesty's illustrious Family was called to the Throne of these Kingdoms, in consequence of the Exclusion of the Roman Catholic antient Branch of the *Stuart* Line, under the express Stipulation, that they should profess the Protestant Religion; and according to the Oath established by the Sanction of Parliament, in the first Year of the Reign of our great Deliverer King *William* the Third, your Majesty, at your Coronation, solemnly swore, that you would, to the utmost of your Power, maintain the Laws of GOD, the true Profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant reformed Religion established by Law.

That although the Term of Imprisonment of the Subject is limited to three Months, the Power of Fining is left indefinite and unrestrained, by which the total Ruin of the Party may be effected by an enormous and excessive Fine.

That the whole legislative Power of the Province is vested in Persons to be solely appointed by your Majesty, and removeable at your Pleasure, which we apprehend to be repugnant to the leading Principles of this free Constitution, by which alone your Majesty now holds, or legally can hold, the Imperial Crown of these Realms.

That

That the said Bill was brought into Parliament very late in the present Session, and after the greater Number of the Members of the two Houses were retired into the Country, so that it cannot fairly be presumed to be the Sense of those Parts of the Legislature.

Your Petitioners, therefore, most humbly supplicate your Majesty, as the Guardian of the Laws, Liberties, and Religion of your People, and as the great Bulwark of the Protestant Faith, that you will not give your royal Assent to the said Bill.

And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, will ever pray.

King's Answer, delivered by the Right Honourable the Earl of Hertford, Lord Chamberlain to the King, the 22d Day of June, 1774.

AS your Petition relates to a Bill agreed on by the two Houses of Parliament, of which his Majesty cannot take public Notice, until it is presented to him for his royal Assent in Parliament, I am commanded by the King to inform you, that you are not to expect an Answer.

W I L K E S, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall*, of the City of *London*, on *Tuesday*, the 31st Day of *January*, 1775.

This Day, Mr. Alderman *Bull*, presented unto this Court, a Letter which he had lately received from *Francis Maseres*, Esq; Agent to the Protestant Settlers in the Province of *Quebec*, which was read in these Words :

S I R, *Inner Temple, London, Jan. 16, 1775.*

HIS Majesty's antient and loyal Subjects, the Protestant Settlers in the Province of *Quebec*, (who have done me the Honour to appoint me their Agent for their public Concerns in *England*) have lately sent me Instructions, to express to you and to the Court of Aldermen, and the Common Council of the City of *London*, their most sincere and hearty Thanks, for the great Mark of fraternal Regard and Affection, which you some Time since testified towards them, by your Address to the King's most gracious Majesty, intreating him to refuse his Royal Assent to the Bill for the Government of the said Province.

They

They exprefs very ftrong Apprehenfions of the Mifchiefs that muft attend the Operation of this Bill ; and they more efpecially lament the Abolition of thofe moft valuable Parts of the *Engliſh* Law, which relate to the Protection of perſonal Liberty, by Means of the Writ of *Habeas Corpus*, and of thofe which eſtabliſh the Trial by Jury in civil Caſes ; which Abolition, they conceive to be involved in thoſe very general Words of the new Act, which direct, “ That in all Matters of Property and civil Rights, reſort ſhall be had to the Laws of *Canada*, and not to the Laws of *England*.”

This total Expulſion of the Laws of *England*, and total Reſtoration of the Laws of *Canada*, in civil Matters, which is ſo grievous to themſelves, they alledge to have been no way neceſſary to the Satisfaction of the *Canadians* ; but, on the contrary, they declare, that the Majority of thoſe new Subjects of his Maſteſty, have rather expreſſed a liking for the general Body of the Laws of *England*, ſince they have had Experience of them, than a Wiſh to ſee their former Laws reſtored ; having enjoyed, and being always ready to acknowledge they have enjoyed, a greater Degree of Liberty for their Perſons, Security for their Property, and Encouragement to the Exertion of their Induſtry in Trade and Agriculture, ſince the Intro-

duction of the Laws of *England* into the Province, than ever they had known before, together with what they value, perhaps more than all the rest, an Exemption from the insolent and capricious Treatment of their former Superiors. And in Pursuance of this favorable Opinion entertained by them of the *English* Laws, great Numbers of them were last Year disposed, as my Correspondents assure me, in the most positive Terms, to join with the *English* Inhabitants of the Province, in petitioning his Majesty for the Continuance of the *English* Laws, and were only deterred from so doing, by false Alarms spread amongst them by their Superiors, concerning the Dangers to which their Religion would be exposed, if they joined with the *English* in any public Representations.

The Passage of the Letter of my Correspondents, in which they relate this important Fact, is so remarkable, that I beg Leave to transcribe the very Words of it; they are as follow: "In justice to the Bulk of the *Canadian* Inhabitants, who have formerly smarted under the Rigour of the *French* Government, and the Caprice of petty Tyrants of those Days, we must confess, that they prefer infinitely *English* Law, which secures their Liberty and Property, and gives a free Scope to their Industry, and dread falling again under the Laws and Customs of *Canada*." This we declare, upon our certain Knowledge,
as

as very great Numbers, throughout the Province, have offered to join us in petitioning for the Continuance of *English* Laws, and disavowing their Consent, Privity, or Knowledge of the Petition that was sent Home last Year in their Names, though signed only by a few Persons in the Province; but when we had prepared a Paper at their Desire, for them to sign, expressing these well-known Facts, they informed us, that they were with-held by their Superiors, and commanded not to join the *English* in any public Representations; for if they did, they were assured, that they would infallibly be deprived of their Religion; but if they remained quiet, they might depend upon it, that the *English* Laws would not be changed.

From this State of the Sentiments of the Majority of the *Canadians*, it is evident, that it was by no Means necessary to their Satisfaction, that the whole Body of the *French* Laws upon civil Matters should be revived, and the *English* Laws upon those Subjects suppressed; but that, on the contrary, that great and valuable End might have been better obtained, by reviving or confirming only such Parts of the former *French* Laws as related to the Tenures of Land, the Manner of conveying and settling it, and the Transmission of it to new Possessors, by Dower and Inheritance upon the Deaths of its Owners, and per-

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haps

haps a few other Heads of *French* Law, that might be necessary to their domestic Peace and Family Concerns, to which Revival of such Parts only of the *French* Laws, the *British* and Protestant Settlers have often declared, and do now again declare on this Occasion, that they should not have had the least Objection,

And my Correspondents further direct me to inform you, that though they are pleased to see that the criminal Laws of *England* have been permitted by the late Act to continue in the Province, they are nevertheless uneasy at the extensive Powers of altering those Laws, and making new ones upon those high and important Subjects, which are vested by it in a legislative Council of a very dependent Constitution; and they particularly lament, that this legislative Council, dependent as it is, is not established for a few Years only, till it may be found convenient to summon an Assembly of the Province, but is appointed for an indefinite Length of Time, as if it were intended to be the permanent Mode of Government in that Country.

And in the last Place, they express their Concern at observing, that though the Popish Religion is established in the Province, by the Clause in the late Act, which compels the Roman Catholic

tholic Inhabitants to pay to their Priests the Tythes that were formerly due to them, (which in Consequence of Sir *Jeffery Amherst's* express Refusal of the *French* General's Demand in that Behalf, at the Time of the Capitulation and Surrender of the whole Country, in *September, 1760*, they have not hitherto been obliged by Law to do) yet no Provision is made in it for the Encouragement of the Protestant Religion. These Considerations, they say, fill their Minds with melancholy Apprehensions of the Evils that may arise from the malignant Principles and overbearing Spirit of the Romish Church, when elated by these Marks of public Favor.

They, therefore, take the Liberty, humbly to intreat the Lord Mayor, and the Court of Aldermen, and Common Council of this great City, to exert themselves once more in their Behalf, by recommending it to the worthy Members, who represent them in Parliament, to use their utmost Endeavours to recover and confirm the civil and religious Rights of no inconsiderable Number of honest and enterprizing Subjects of the Crown, who have been induced, by the royal Proclamation of *October, 1763*, to settle in that distant Country, and to risk their Lives and Fortunes there with Chearfulness and Confidence, under the most solemn Promise of enjoying in it immediately the Benefit of the Laws of *England*, and in
due

due Time, that of a provincial Assembly, with the usual Powers of Legislation.

These, Sir, are the Sentiments which I am authorised to express to you, and to the respectable Corporation of the City of *London* upon this Subject, by the Committee of the Protestant Settlers in the Province of *Quebec*, whose Names are these that follow :

James Price,	John Aitkin,
Randle Meredith,	John Welles,
John Blake,	John Lees,
Isaac Todd,	Zachary MacAulay.
Tho ^s . Walker,	

To these Sentiments of my Constituents, I beg Leave to add a few Words concerning an Event, which I am informed, has lately happened, and which bears a near Relation to them, I mean the public Declaration which has been made at a Meeting of the *American* Merchants, by a Gentleman connected with Government, concerning some Resolutions already taken upon this Subject; for, according to this Declaration, it appears, that the Wisdom and Equity of his Majesty's Ministers, have anticipated the Wishes of the Protestant Settlers in the Province of *Quebec*, with Respect to two of the Points above complained

plained of, the Abolition of the Laws concerning the Writ of *Habeas Corpus*, and concerning the Trial by Jury in civil Cases, and have induced them to direct a Draught of an Ordinance to be prepared here in *England*, under their own Inspection, by a Gentleman of great Abilities, in order to be sent to *Quebec*, and passed into an Ordinance by the legislative Council of the Province, for re-establishing those two important Branches of the *English* Law. This Proceeding, at the same Time that it gives a Sanction to the Desires of my Constituents upon those Subjects, affords a Proof of the Uprightness and Candour of his Majesty's Ministers, and the Purity of their Intentions with Respect to this Province, infomuch that I cannot but indulge myself in the Hope, that they will be easily prevailed on to go one Step further in this good Work, and gratify my Constituents in the Manner, as well as the Matter of their Requests, by promoting the Establishment of these important Points, by an Act of Parliament, to enlarge and amend the former Act, instead of an Ordinance of the legislative Council, to the End that all the Inhabitants of the Province, both *French* and *English*, Roman Catholics and Protestants, may have the same solid and satisfactory Security of an Act of Parliament for the Enjoyment of these great Foundations of their civil Liberty, as has been granted to the Roman Catholic Inhabitants for the free

Exercise

Exercise of their Religion and the legal Maintenance of their Clergy.

I have the Honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

FRANCIS MASERES.

W I L K E S, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Friday*, the 10th Day of *February*, 1775.

Mr. Alderman *Kirkman* reported from the Committee, appointed the thirty-first Day of *January* last, to draw up an Answer to a Letter presented unto this Court by Mr. Alderman *Bull*, which he had lately received from *Francis Maseres*, Esquire, Agent to the Protestant Settlers in the Province of *Quebec*, that the said Committee had prepared an Answer, which he delivered into this Court, and the same was read and agreed to, in the following Words:

To

To the Honourable Mr. Baron Maseres, Agent to the Protestant Settlers in the Province of Quebec.

S I R,

THE Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, in Answer to your Letter, communicated by Mr. Alderman *Bull*, desire that you will be pleased to acquaint the Committee of the Protestant Settlers of the Province of *Quebec*, for whom you are Agent, that nothing in the Power of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council, shall be wanting, towards promoting so desirable a Purpose, as the obtaining Redress respecting the late *Quebec Act*, for the Protestant Settlers in *Canada*, whose Complaints against that Law, are manifestly founded in Justice and Reason.

The pernicious Tendency of the *Quebec Act*, is sufficiently evident to all Persons of Impartiality and Discernment, and it is therefore, easy to conceive, agreeable to the Representation made by your Constituents, that the Majority of the Inhabitants of *Canada*, even those professing the Roman Catholic Religion, could not have been desirous of such a Law. Men who were born under an arbitrary Government, but who were
afterwards

afterwards happily placed in a State of Freedom, must have been void of Understanding, and destitute of the common Feelings of human Nature, if they had been desirous of again returning to the unhappy Situation of those who are subjected to despotic Laws. And it cannot excite any Surprise, that Deceit and Misrepresentation were employed, to render the Inhabitants of *Canada* silent and acquiescent, when Measures were concerting so prejudicial to their best and greatest Interests.

The Scheme, that is said to be in Agitation, of granting to the Inhabitants of *Canada*, the Privileges of Trial by Jury in civil Cases, and of the Writ of *Habeas Corpus*, to be ordained by a legislative Council, holding their Seats at the Will of the Crown, (an Institution of which the History of our Country furnishes no Precedent, but in the most arbitrary Times) is evidently not such a Security as *British* Subjects are intitled to. Privileges of so important a Nature, ought to be held by an Authority truly legal, and not depend for their Continuance on Royal Will and Pleasure, which is a Tenure, totally inconsistent with the Genius and Spirit of the *British* Constitution. The Power of abrogating old Laws and of making new, is of too great Importance to be possessed by any Man, or by any Body of Men, unless such as are elected by the People themselves,

selves, and whom they think proper to constitute as their Delegates and Trustees.

We pray you, Sir, particularly to express to your Constituents our sincere Concern, at seeing that by the Authority of the *British* Parliament, it is enacted, “ That his Majesty’s Subjects professing the Religion of the Church of *Rome*, “ may have, hold, and enjoy the free Exercise “ of their Religion; and that the Clergy of “ the said Church may hold, receive, and enjoy their accustomed Dues and Rights;” at the same Time, that as far as depends on the Provisions of that Act, the Protestant Religion is even untolerated.

As the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the City of *London*, are zealous to preserve their own Liberties, and those of their Country, and to transmit them undiminished and unimpaired to Posterity, so it is their earnest Desire, that the Blessing of Freedom may be enjoyed by the Inhabitants of every Part of the *British* Empire; and you may assure the Committee of the Protestant Settlers of the Province of *Quebec*, that the Representatives of the City of *London* in Parliament, who are all Members of this Court, have been, and will be requested to use their utmost Endeavours to procure a Repeal

peal of the late *Quebec Act*; an Act, which is equally repugnant to the Principles of *British Law* and *British Liberty*, inconsistent with Equity and Justice, and contrary to every Principle of sound Policy.

RESOLVED, That this Court doth request the Members who serve for this City in Parliament, and such other Members of this Court as are Members of Parliament, to use their Endeavours for a Repeal of the Act of Parliament passed last Sessions, intituled, "An Act for making more effectual Provision for the Government of the Province of *Quebec*, in *North America*."

WILKES;

W I L K E S, Mayor.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildball* of the City of *London*, on *Monday*, the 13th Day of *February*, 1775.

RESOLVED, That the present Situation of our public Affairs, in consequence of the severe Proceedings against the *American Colonies*, is so exceedingly alarming, that it is the Duty of this Court, to use every possible Endeavour to prevent all further Oppression, and to obtain Relief to so numerous and valuable a Part of our Fellow-Subjects.

RESOLVED, That as a Bill is proposed to be brought into Parliament, to prohibit the *New-England Fishery*, which, if complied with, may materially injure the commercial Interests of this City, and of the Kingdom in general, the Lord Mayor be requested by this Court to convene the same, to consider, Whether it may not be the Duty of this Court to petition Parliament against the proposed Bill, the Principles of which, so far as they have been hitherto declared, appear to be repugnant both to Justice and the true Interests of the *British Empire*.

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WILKES,

W I L K E S, Mayor.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Tuesday*, the 21st Day of *February*, 1775.

THE Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, laid before this Court a printed Copy of a Bill now depending in the Honourable House of Commons, intituled, "A Bill to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Province of *Masachusetts Bay*, and *New Hampshire*, and Colonies of *Connecticut*, and *Rhode Island*, and *Providence Plantation*, in *North America*, to *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, and the *British Islands* in the *West Indies*; and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of *Newfoundland*, or other Places therein to be mentioned, under certain Conditions, and for a Time to be limited;" and the said Bill was read.

RESOLVED, That the Measures of Administration respecting our Fellow-Subjects in *America*, adopted by the late Parliament, appear to this Court in the highest Degree dangerous and alarming, and demand our most serious Attention.

RESOLVED, That as the Opinion of this Court hath already been very fully and particularly

larly declared, against an Act of the late Parlia-
 ment, intituled, " An Act for the making more
 " effectual Provision for the Government of the
 " Province of *Quebec*, in *North America*." We
 think it equally our Duty to bear Testimony also
 against four other Acts of the said Parliament,
 which we esteem highly injurious to our Fellow-
 Subjects in *America*, viz. An Act, intituled,
 " An Act for the better regulating the Govern-
 " ment of the Province of the *Massachusetts Bay*,
 " in *New England*." And also an Act, intituled,
 " An Act for the impartial Administration of
 " Justice, in the Cases of Persons questioned for
 " any Acts done by them, in the Execution of the
 " Law, or for the Suppression of Riots and Tu-
 " mults in the Province of the *Massachusetts Bay*,
 " in *New England*." And also an Act, intituled,
 " An Act to discontinue, in such Manner and for
 " such Time as are therein mentioned, the land-
 " ing and discharging, lading or shipping of
 " Goods, Wares and Merchandizes, at the
 " Town, and within the Harbour of *Boston*, in
 " the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, in *North*
 " *America*." And also an Act, intituled, " An
 " Act for the better providing suitable Quarters
 " for Officers and Soldiers in his Majesty's Service
 " in *North America*." They appearing to this
 Court, to be not only contrary to many of the
 fundamental Principles of the *English* Constitu-
 tion, and most essential Rights of the Subject,

but also apparently inconsistent with natural Justice and Equity, and we are therefore of Opinion, that our Fellow-Subjects, the *Americans*, are justified in every constitutional Opposition to the said Act.

A Motion was made, and Question put, That the Bill depending in Parliament, intituled, “ A Bill to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, &c.” be referred to a Committee, to consider, whether there are any Parts thereof which may be proper for this Court to oppose, and report the same to this Court, on *Thursday* Morning next; the same was unanimously resolved in the Affirmative, and a Committee was appointed accordingly.

WILKES,

W I L K E S, Mayor.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildball* of the City of *London*, on *Thursday*, the 23d Day of *February*, 1775.

THE Committee, appointed by this Court, the twenty-first Instant, to consider whether there are any Parts in the Bill depending in Parliament, intituled, "A Bill to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, and *New Hampshire*, &c." which may be proper for this Court to oppose, did this Day deliver into this Court, a Report in Writing, under their Hands, which was read in these Words:

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

WE, whose Names are hereunto subscribed, your Committee, appointed by this Honourable Court the twenty-first Instant, to consider whether there are any Parts in the Bill depending in Parliament, intituled, "A Bill to restrain the Trade and Commerce of the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, and *New Hampshire*, &c." which may be proper for this Court to oppose,

and to report the same to this Court, on this Morning: Do humbly Certify, that we have met for that Purpose, and having had the said Bill several Times read and duly considered the same, are of Opinion, that the following Parts in the said Bill, may be proper for this Court to oppose.

I. So much of the Principles of the said Bill as prohibit such Provinces and Colonies for carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of *Newfoundland*, or other Places therein to be mentioned, under certain Conditions, and for a Time to be limited.

II. Page 5, Clause 10. Whereby the *North Americans* are restrained from importing Wine, Salt, &c. except Horses, Victuals and Linen Cloth, the Produce and Manufacture of *Ireland*, imported directly from thence.

III. Page 5, Clause 11. Because it gives a Power to his Majesty's Officers by Land and Sea, to licence Smuggling.

IV. Page 6, Clause 13. Because it prevents any Subject of *Great Britain*, and *Ireland*, or any different Province, from being Part Owners of any *American Ship* or Vessel, allowed by the said Act, to carry on the Fishery.

V. Page 8, Clause 18. Because it vests an undue Authority in the Governor and Council of *Massachusetts Bay*, over the Provinces therein mentioned; all which we submit to this Honourable Court, this 23d Day of *February*, 1775.

William Hurford,
Thomas Hyde,
James Sharp,
Edward Tutet,
Thomas Harrison,
William Stone.

Frederick Bull,
John Sawbridge,
Richard Oliver,
George Bellas,
William Saxby,
Edward Howse,

And a Motion being made, and Question put, That this Court doth agree with the Committee in their said Report, the same was resolved in the Affirmative.

Another Motion was made, and Question put, That it be referred to the Committee to withdraw immediately to draw up a Petition to the Honourable House of Commons against the said Bill; the same was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the said Committee withdrew accordingly, and returning again into Court, presented a Draft of a Petition by them prepared, which being twice read, and some Amendments made thereto, was unanimously agreed to, in the following Words.

*To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Lord Mayor,
Aldermen, and Commons of the City of
London, in Common Council assembled.

Sheweth,

THAT although your Petitioners bear all due Respect to the Policy of those Acts of Parliament which have antiently preserved to *Great Britain*, a necessary and beneficial Share of Commerce with our Colonies, yet they are exceedingly alarmed at the Consequences that must ensue, if the Bill now depending in this Honourable House, should pass into a Law, intituled, “ A Bill to restrain the Trade and Commerce of *Massachusetts Bay* and *New Hampshire*, and Colonies of *Connecticut* and *Rhode Island*, and *Providence Plantation* in *North America*, to *Great Britain*, *Ireland*, and the *British Isles* in the *West Indies*, and to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of *Newfoundland*, or other Places therein to be mentioned, under certain Conditions, and for a Time to be limited;” the said Bill, as your Petitioners conceive, being unjustly founded, because it involves the Whole in the Punishment intended for the supposed Offence of a few.

That

That it must, in its Consequences, overwhelm Thousands of his Majesty's Subjects with the utmost Poverty and Distress, inasmuch as they will be thereby deprived of the Fisheries which are the natural Means of supporting themselves and Families.

That the extensive Commerce between *Great Britain* and her Colonies, will, by this Bill, be greatly injured, as a capital Source of Remittance will be stopped, which will not only disconnect the future commercial Intercourse between those Colonies and this Country, but it will eventually render them incapable of paying the large Debts already due to the Merchants of this City.

That the utmost Confusion will probably ensue from enforcing this Bill, if passed into a Law, as it cannot be supposed that a great Number of Men, naturally hardy and brave, will quietly submit to a Law, which will reduce them to almost Famine, they not having within themselves Provisions sufficient for their Subsistence.

That it will induce the *French* to extend their Fisheries, and by that Means encrease the Wealth and Strength of our Rivals in Trade, to the great Prejudice of this Country.

That

That your Petitioners feel for the many Hardships which their Fellow-Subjects in *America* already labour under, from the Execution of several late Acts of Parliament, evidently partial and oppressive, and which seem to be extended and continued by this Bill, inasmuch as it confirms those Acts, which in particular Cases deprive the *American* Subject of Trial by Jury; prohibits the Inhabitants from carrying Provision from one Colony to another; invites a contraband Trade under Military Protections, prevents any Subject of *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, from being Part Owner of certain *American* Ships or Vessels; and vests an undue and dangerous Authority in the Governor and Council of *Massachusetts Bay*.

Your Petitioners, therefore, humbly pray this Honourable House, that the said Bill may not pass into a Law.

W I L K E S, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Tuesday*, the 14th Day of *March*, 1775.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor acquainted this Court, that he had called them together, to consider of a Petition to the House of Lords, against a Bill now depending, intituled, “ An Act to restrain the Trade and “ Commerce of the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, &c.” and a Motion being made, and Question put, That this Court doth agree to petition the Right Honourable the House of Lords against the said Bill, the same was resolved in the Affirmative; which Petition is as follows :

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners conceive, that the Bill now depending in this Honourable House, intituled, “ An Act to restrain the Trade and “ Commerce of the Province of *Massachusetts Bay*, “ and *New Hampshire*, and Colonies of *Connecticut*, “ and

“ and *Rhode Island*, and *Providence Plantation*,
 “ in *North America*, to *Great Britain*, *Ireland*,
 “ and the *British Islands* in the *West Indies*; and
 “ to prohibit such Provinces and Colonies from
 “ carrying on any Fishery on the Banks of *New-*
 “ *foundland*, or other Places therein mentioned,
 “ under certain Conditions and Limitations;” will,
 if passed into a Law, be of most pernicious Ten-
 dency, and dangerous in its Consequence to the
 Interest and Commerce both of *Great Britain* and
 her Colonies.

Your Petitioners humbly apprehend, that if
 the said Bill should be passed into a Law, the
 trading Vessels of his Majesty's Subjects will be
 in a most unconstitutional Manner, subjected to
 the Discretion and Controul of Military Power,
 and that the general Principles of the said Bill, are
 repugnant to Equity and the Rights of *British*
 Subjects.

Your Petitioners apprehend, that the Design
 of the said Bill, to deprive the Inhabitants of
Massachusetts Bay, and *New Hampshire*, and
 Colonies of *Connecticut*, and *Rhode Island*, and
Providence Plantation, in *North America*, of the
 Liberty of Fishing on the Banks of *Newfound-*
land, is contrary to every Principle of Humanity
 and Policy; that it is highly injurious to our
North American Fellow-Subjects, and prohibits
 the most beneficial Means of carrying on the *New-*
foundland

foundland Fishery; a Trade affording to this Country the greatest commercial Advantages; and the said Bill tends to throw that important Fishery into the Hands of a powerful commercial Rival, for whom a careful and especial Provision is made by this Bill, whilst common Justice is denied to *British* Subjects.

Your Petitioners further apprehend, that leaving the Operation or Suspension of an Act of Parliament to depend on the Discretion of any Governor, is a most alarming Violation of the Principles of the *British* Constitution, and though there hath been an Instance of this in some late Acts, yet your Petitioners conceive it to be highly unwarrantable and dangerous.

Your Petitioners humbly apprehend, that if the said Bill should pass into a Law, it can have no other Effect than to widen that unhappy Breach, which now subsists between the Colonies and the Mother Country, and may therefore be productive of the most dangerous Consequences to both.

The supreme legislative Authority of this free Country, cannot be founded on arbitrary Power, but is itself limited to preserve the Constitutional Rights of every Part of the *British* Empire.

The *American* Colonies have contributed inestimable Benefits to this Country, because they
derive

derive from the Constitution of *England*, and have participated with us the Enjoyments of free Subjects, restricted only by wise Regulations of Trade, from which *Ireland* and *America* have promoted the general Prosperity of the *British* Empire, and thence received the Protection of *Great Britain*. And your Petitioners presume to add, that oppressive Measures respecting the Colonies, must eventually be highly pernicious to *Great Britain*, which has been brought to its present Dignity and Splendour by the Freedom of its Constitution, and its Adherence to Equity and Humanity, but may be reduced to Destruction by Measures founded on Injustice and Despotism.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray,
that the said Bill may not pass into a Law,

WILKES,

W I L K E S, *Mayor.*

In a Meeting or Assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the several Companies of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, at the *Guildhall* of the said City, on *Wednesday*, the 5th Day of *April*, 1775.

A Motion was made, and Question put, That an humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, be presented to his Majesty, from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, against the Measures adopted with respect to *America*, the same was resolved in the Affirmative; and an humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition to his Majesty being presented, a Motion was made, that the same be read, and the Question being put, it was resolved in the Affirmative, whereupon the same was read as follows:

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address, Remonstrance, and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled.

W E,

WE, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of *London*, beg Leave to approach the Throne, and to declare our Abhorrence of the Measures which have been pursued and are now pursuing to the Oppression of our Fellow-Subjects in *America*; these Measures are big with all the Consequences which can alarm a free and commercial People. A deep, and perhaps fatal Wound to Commerce; the Ruin of Manufactures; the Diminution of the Revenue; and consequent Increase of Taxes; the Alienation of the Colonies, and the Blood of your Majesty's Subjects.

But your Petitioners look with less Horror at the Consequences than at the Purpose of these Measures; not deceived by the specious Artifice of calling Despotism Dignity, they plainly perceive that the real Purpose is to establish arbitrary Power over all *America*.

Your Petitioners conceive the Liberties of the whole to be inevitably connected with those of every Part of an Empire, founded on the common Rights of Mankind; they cannot therefore observe, without the greatest Concern and Alarm, the Constitution fundamentally violated, in any Part of your Majesty's Dominion; They esteem it an essential, unalterable Principle of Liberty, the Source and Security of all Constitutional Rights, that no Part of the Dominion can be
taxed

taxed without being represented. Upon this great leading Principle, they most ardently wish to see their Fellow-Subjects in *America* secured in what their humble Petition to your Majesty prays for, Peace, Liberty and Safety. Subordination in Commerce, under which the Colonies have always chearfully acquiesced, is, they conceive, all that this Country ought in Justice to require; from this Subordination, such Advantages flow, by all the Profits of their Commerce centering here, as fully compensate this Nation for the Expence incurred, to which they also contribute in Men and Money for their Defence and Protection during a general War; and in their Provincial Wars, they have manifested their Readiness and Resolution to defend themselves; to require more of them would, for this Reason, derogate from the Justice and Magnanimity which have been hitherto the Pride and Character of this Country.

It is therefore, with the deepest Concern, that we have seen the sacred Security of Representation in their Assemblies wrested from them; the Trial by Jury abolished; and the odious Powers of Excise extended to all Cases of Revenue; the Sanctuary of their Houses laid open to Violation at the Will and Pleasure of every Officer and Servant in the Customs; the Dispensation of Justice corrupted, by rendering their Judges dependant, for their Seats and Salaries, on the Will of the Crown; Liberty and Life rendered pre-
E.
carious,

carious, by subjecting them to be dragged over the Ocean, and tried for Treason or Felony here, where the Distance making it impossible for the most Guiltless to maintain his Innocence, must deliver him up a Victim to ministerial Vengeance : Soldiers and others in *America*, have been instigated to shed the Blood of the People, by establishing a Mode of Trial which holds out Impunity for such Murder : The Capital of *New England* has been punished with unexampled Rigour, untried and unheard ; involving the Innocent and the Suspected in one common and inhuman Calamity ; chartered Rights have been taken away without any Forfeiture proved, in order to deprive the People of every legal Exertion against Tyranny of their Rulers. The *Habeas Corpus* Act, and Trial by Jury have been suppressed, and *French* despotic Government, with the Roman Catholic Religion, have been established by Law, over an extensive Part of your Majesty's Dominions in *America* : Dutiful Petitions for Redress of these Grievances, from all your Majesty's *American* Subjects have been fruitless.

To fill up the Measure of these Oppressions, an Army has been sent to enforce them ; super-added to this, Measures are now planned upon the most merciless Policy of starving our Fellow-Subjects into a total Surrender of their Liberties, and an unlimited Submission to arbitrary Government.

These

These Grievances have driven your Majesty's faithful Subjects to Despair, and compelled them to have Recourse to that Resistance, which is justified by the great Principles of the Constitution; actuated by which, at the glorious Period of the Revolution, our Ancestors transferred the Imperial Crown of these Realms, from the popish and tyrannic Race of the *Stuarts*, to the illustrious and Protestant House of *Brunswick*.

Your Petitioners are persuaded that these Measures originate in the secret Advice of Men, who are Enemies equally to your Majesty's Title and the Liberties of your People; that your Majesty's Ministers carry them into Execution, by the same fatal Corruption which has enabled them to wound the Peace and violate the Constitution of this Country; thus they poison the Fountain of public Security, and render that Body, which should be the Guardian of Liberty, a formidable Instrument of arbitrary Power.

Your Petitioners do therefore, most earnestly beseech your Majesty, to dismiss immediately, and for ever from your Councils, these Ministers and Advisers, as the first Step towards a full Redress of those Grievances which alarm and afflict your whole People; so shall Peace and Commerce be restored, and the Confidence and Affection of all your Majesty's Subjects, be the solid Supporters of your Throne.

His Majesty's Answer to the said Address:

IT is with the utmost Astonishment, that I find any of my Subjects capable of encouraging the rebellious Disposition which unhappily exists in some of my Colonies in *North America*. Having entire Confidence in the Wisdom of my Parliament, the great Council of the Nation, I will steadily pursue those Measures which they have recommended for the Support of the Constitutional Rights of *Great Britain*, and the Protection of the commercial Interests of my Kingdoms.

WILKES,

W I L K E S, Mayor.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Friday*, the 23d Day of *June*, 1775, and in the Fifteenth Year of the Reign of King GEORGE the Third, of *Great Britain*, &c.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, having received a Letter from the General Committee of Association for the City and County of *New-York*, addressed to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen, and Common Council of the City of *London*, his Lordship delivered the same into this Court, and it was read as follows :

COMMITTEE CHAMBER,

New-York, May, 5, 1775.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

DISTINGUISHED as you are, by your noble Exertions in the Cause of Liberty, and deeply interested in the expiring Commerce of the Empire; you necessarily command the most respectful Attention. The General Committee of Association

ciation for the City and County of *New-York*, beg Leave therefore to address you, and the Capital of the *British* Empire, through its Magistrates, on the Subject of *American* Wrongs. Born to the bright Inheritance of *English* Freedom, the Inhabitants of this extensive Continent, can never submit to the ignominious Yoke, nor move in the galling Fetters of Slavery. The Disposal of their own Property with perfect Spontaneity, and in a Manner wholly divested of every Appearance of Constraint, is their indefeasible Birthright. This exalted Blessing they are resolutely determined to defend with their Blood, and transfer it uncontaminated to their Posterity,

You will not then wonder at their early Jealousy of the Design to erect in this Land of Liberty, a Despotism scarcely to be paralleled in the Pages of Antiquity, or the Volumes of modern Times; a Despotism, consisting in Power assumed by the Representatives of a Part of his Majesty's Subjects, at their sovereign Will and Pleasure to strip the rest of their Property. And what are the Engines of Administration to execute this destructive Project? The Duty on Tea; oppressive Restraints on the Commerce of the Colonies; the Blockade of the Port of *Boston*; the Change of internal Police in the *Massachusetts Bay* and *Quebec*; the Establishment of Popery in the latter; the Extension of its Bounds; the Ruin
of

of our *Indian* Commerce, by Regulations calculated to aggrandize that arbitrary Government; unconstitutional Admiralty Jurisdictions throughout the Colonies; the Invasion of our Right to a Trial in the most capital Cases by a Jury of the Vicinage; the horrid Contrivance to screen from Punishment the bloody Executioners of ministerial Vengeance; and, not to mention the rest of the black Catalogue of our Grievances, the hostile Operations of an Army, who have already shed the Blood of our Countrymen. The Struggles excited by the detestable Stamp Act, have so lately demonstrated to the World that *Americans* will not be Slaves, that we stand astonished at the gross Impolicy of the Minister. Recent Experience had evinced, that the Possessors of this extensive Continent would never submit to a Tax by Pretext of legislative Authority in *Britain*: Disguise therefore became the Expedient. In pursuit of the same End, Parliament declared their absolute Supremacy over the Colonies, and have already endeavoured to exercise that Supremacy in attempting to raise a Revenue, under the specious Pretence of providing for their good Government and Defence. Administration, to exhibit a Degree of Moderation, purely ostensible and delusory, while they withdrew their Hands from our most necessary Articles of Importation, determined with an eager Grasp to hold the Duty on Tea, as a Badge of their taxative

Power. Zealous on our Part for an indissoluble Union with the Parent State, studious to promote the Glory and Happiness of the Empire, impressed with a just Sense of the Necessity of a controuling Authority to regulate and harmonize the discordant commercial Interests of its various Parts ; we cheerfully submit to a Regulation of Commerce by the Legislature of the Parent State, excluding in its Nature every Idea of Taxation.

Whither, therefore, the present Machinations of arbitrary Power infallibly tend, you may easily judge; if unremittedly pursued, as they were inhumanly devised, they will, by a fatal Necessity, terminate in a total Dissolution of the Empire.

The Subjects of this Country will not, we trust, be deceived by any Measures conciliatory in Appearance, while it is evident that the Minister aims at a solid Revenue to be raised by grievous and oppressive Acts of Parliament ; and by Fleets and Armies employed to enforce their Execution. They never will, we believe, submit to an Auction in the Colonies for the more effectual Augmentation of the Revenue, by holding it up as a Temptation to them that the highest Bidders shall enjoy the greatest Share of governmental Favour. This Plan, as it would tend to sow the Seeds of Discord, would be far more dangerous than hostile Force ; in which we hope the King's Troops will ever be, as they have already been,

been, unsuccessful. Instead of those unusual, extraordinary and unconstitutional Modes of procuring Levies from the Subject, should his Majesty graciously be pleased, upon suitable Emergencies, to make Requisitions in ancient Form, the Colonies have expressed their Willingness to contribute to the Support of the Empire ; but to contribute of their voluntary Gift as *Englishmen* : And when our unexampled Grievances are redressed, our Prince will find his *American* Subjects testifying, on all proper Occasions, by ample Aids as their Circumstances will permit, the most unshaken Fidelity to their Sovereign, and inviolable Attachment to the Welfare of his Realm and Dominions. Permit us further to assure you, that *America* is grown so irritable by Oppression, that the least Shock, in any Part, is by the most powerful and sympathetic Affection, instantaneously felt through the whole Continent. That *Pensylvania*, *Maryland*, and *New-York*, have already stopped their Exports to the Fishing Islands, and those Colonies, which, at this dangerous Juncture have refused to unite with their Brethren in the common Cause ; and all Supplies to the Navy and Army at *Boston* ; and that probably the Day is at Hand when our Continental Congress will totally shut up our Ports. The Minions of Power here may now inform Administration, if they can ever speak the Language of Truth, that this City is as one Man in the Cause of Liberty :

Liberty; that to this End, our Inhabitants are almost unanimously bound by the enclosed Association; that it is continually advancing to Perfection by additional Subscriptions; that they are resolutely bent on supporting their Committee, and the intended Provincial and Continental Congresses; that there is not the least Doubt of the Efficacy of their Example in the other Counties; in short, that while the whole Continent are ardently wishing for Peace, on such Terms as can be acceded to by *Englishmen*, they are indefatigable in preparing for the last Appeal: That such are the Language and Conduct of our Fellow-Citizens, will be further manifested by a Representation of the Lieutenant Governor and Council, of the first Instant, to General *Gage*, at *Boston*, and to his Majesty's Ministers, by the Packet. Assure yourselves, my Lord and Gentlemen, that we speak the real Sentiments of the confederated Colonies on the Continent, from *Nova Scotia* to *Georgia*, when we declare, that all the Horrors of a Civil War will never compel *America* to submit to Taxation by Authority of Parliament,

A sincere Regard to the Public Weal, and the Cause of Humanity; an hearty Desire to spare the further Effusion of Human Blood; our Loyalty to our Prince, and the Love we bear to all our Fellow-Subjects in his Majesty's Realm and Dominions; a full Conviction of the warmest Attachment

tachment in the Capital of the Empire to the Cause of Justice and Liberty, have induced us to address you on this momentous Subject; confident that the same cogent Motives will induce the most vigorous Exertions of the City of *London*, to restore Union, mutual Confidence and Peace to the whole Empire.

We have the Honor to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient and

Affectionate Fellow-Subjects

And Humble Servants,

Isaac Roosevelt
Gabriel H. Ludlow
Wm. Walton
Daniel Phoenix
Fredk. Jay
Samuel Broome
John de Lancey
Alexander M'Dougall
John Reade
Joseph Bull
George Janeway
John White
Gab. W. Ludlow
John Lasher
Theophilus Anthony
Thomas Smith
Richard Yates

Isaac Low, Chairman.
John Jay
Fran. Lewis
John Alsop
Phil. Livingston
Ja. Duane
G. Duyckrorck
Wm. Seton
William W. Ludlow
Cornelius Clopper
Abrm. Brinckerhoff
Henry Remsen
Robert Ray
Evert Bancker
Joseph Totten
Abm. P. Lott
David Beckman

Oliver

Wm. W. Gilbert
 Daniel Dunscomb
 John Lamb
 Richard Sharpe
 Jno. Moringicott
 Jacob Vanvoorhis
 Comfort Sands
 Edward Fleming
 Lancaster Burling
 Benjn. Kiffam
 Jacobs. Lefferts
 Antho. Vandam
 Abraham Walton
 Thomas Randall
 Aug. V. Horne
 Ab. Duryee
 Saml. Verplanck
 Rudolphus Ritzeman
 John Morton
 Joseph Hallett
 Hamilton Young
 Peter Goelet
 Gerret Kitettas
 Thomas Buchanan
 James Desbroffles, jun.
 Petrus Byvanck
 Lawrence Embree,

Oliver Timpleton
 Jacobus Van Zandt
 Jeremiah Platt
 Peter S. Curtenius
 Robert Benson
 Abraham Brasfer
 Leonard Lifpenard
 Thomas Marstory
 Nicholas Hoffman
 P. V. B. Livingston
 Lewis Pintard
 Jno. Imlay
 Eleazar Millar, Jun.
 Jno. Broom
 Jno. B. Moore
 Nicholas Bogert
 John Anthony
 Victor Bicker
 William Goforth
 Hercules Mulligan
 Nicholas Roosevelt
 Corns. P. Low
 Frans. Bassett
 James Beekman
 Thomas Ivers
 William Denning
 John Berrien
 Benja. Helme

To the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR,
 The ALDERMEN, and COMMON,
 C O U N C I L,
 Of the City of L O N D O N,

New-York, April 29, 1775.

A General Association, agreed to, and subscribed by the Freeholders, Freemen, and Inhabitants of the City and County of *New-York*.

PERSUADED, that the Salvation of the Rights and Liberties of *America*, depends, under God, on the firm Union of its Inhabitants in a vigorous Prosecution of the Measures necessary for its Safety ; and convinced of the Necessity of preventing the Anarchy and Confusion, which attend a Dissolution of the Powers of Government, We, the Freemen, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the City and County of *New-York*, being greatly alarmed at the avowed Design of the Ministry, to raise a Revenue in *America* ; and shocked by the bloody Scene, now acting in the *Massachusetts Bay*, DO, in the most solemn Manner resolve, never to become Slaves ; and do associate under all the Ties of Religion, Honor, and Love to our Country, to adopt and endeavour to carry into Execution, whatever Measures may be recommended by the Continental Congress, or resolved upon by our Provincial Convention,

for

for the Purpose of preserving our Constitution, and opposing the Execution of the several arbitrary and oppressive Acts of the *British* Parliament; until a Reconciliation between *Great Britain* and *America*, on constitutional Principles, (which we most ardently desire) can be obtained: And that we will, in all Things follow the Advice of our General Committee, respecting the Purposes aforesaid, the Preservation of Peace and good Order, and the Safety of Individuals, and private Property.

Dated in *New-York*, *April* and *May*, 1775.

WILKES,

W I L K E S, *Mayor.*

At a Meeting of the Livery of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, on *Saturday*, the 24th of *June*, 1775.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor reported, that he had received a Letter from the Right Honourable the Earl of *Hertford*, Lord Chamberlain to his Majesty, and that his Lordship had returned an Answer thereto; both of which were read.

My Lord,

THE King has directed me to give Notice, that for the future, his Majesty will not receive, on the Throne, any Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, but from the Body Corporate of the City.

I, therefore, acquaint your Lordship with it, as Chief Magistrate of the City, and have the Honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most Obedient
Humble Servant,

Grosvenor-street,
April 11, 1775.

HERTFORD,

The Right Hon. *John Wilkes*,
Lord Mayor of the City of *London*.

Man.

Mansion-house, May 2, 1775.

My Lord,

IT is impossible for me to express, or conceal the extreme Astonishment and Grief I felt at the Notice your Lordship's Letter gave me, as Chief Magistrate of the City, "That, for the future, "his Majesty will not receive on the Throne, any "Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, but from "the Body Corporate of the City."

I entreat your Lordship to lay me, with all Humility, at the King's Feet; and as I have now the Honor to be Chief Magistrate, in my Name, to supplicate his Majesty's Justice and Goodness, in Behalf of the Livery of *London*, that he would be graciously pleased to revoke an Order, highly injurious to their Rights and Privileges, which, in this Instance, have been constantly respected, and carefully preserved by all his Royal Predecessors. The Livery of *London*, my Lord, have approved themselves the zealous Friends of Liberty, and the Protestant Succession. They have steadily pursued only those Measures, which were calculated to secure the free Constitution of this Country, and this your Lordship well knows, has created them the Hatred of all the Partisans of the exiled and proscribed Family. They form the great and powerful Body of the Corporation,
in

in whom most important Powers are vested, the Election of the first Magistrate, the Sheriffs, the Chamberlain, the Auditors of the Receipt and Expenditure of their Revenues, and of the four Members who represent in Parliament the Capital of this vast Empire. The full Body Corporate never assemble, nor could they legally act together as one great aggregate Body ; for, by the Constitution of the City, particular and distinct Privileges are reserved to the various Members of the Corporation, to the Freemen, to the Liverymen, to the Common Council, to the Court of Aldermen. His Majesty's Solicitor General, Mr. *Wedderburn*, was consulted by the City in the Year 1771, respecting the Legality of Common Halls and the Remonstrances of the Livery, in Conjunction with Mr. Serjeant *Glynn*, Mr. *Dunning*, and Mr. *Nugent*, he gave an Opinion, which I have the Honor of transcribing from our Records.

“ We apprehend, that the Head Officer of
 “ every Corporation may convene the Body, or
 “ any Class of it, whenever he thinks proper ;
 “ that the Lord Mayor, for the Time being,
 “ may, of his own Authority, legally call a Com-
 “ mon Hall, and *we see no legal Objection to his*
 “ *calling the two last* ; we conceive it to be the
 “ Duty of the proper Officers of the several Com-
 “ panies, to whom Precepts, for the Purpose of
 G “ summoning

“summoning their respective Liveries have been
 “usually directed, to execute those Precepts;
 “and that a wilful Refusal on their Part is an Of-
 “fence, punishable by Disfranchisement.”

The City, my Lord, have been careful, that all their Proceedings should be grounded on the true Principles of Law and the Constitution. Notwithstanding it is the clear Right of the Subject to petition the King for the Redress of Grievances; a Right, which so many Thousands of our Fellow-Subjects, my Lord, have justly thought it their Duty, very frequently to exercise in the last ten Years; yet the City, from Excess of Caution, took a great legal Opinion in the Case, and I find the following Words entered in their Journals, by the express Order of the Common Hall.

“The Livery of *London*, legally assembled in
 “Common Hall, either on *Midsummer, Michael-*
 “*mas*, or any other Day, have an undoubted
 “Right to take into Consideration, any Matter
 “of public Grievance they may think proper. *It*
 “*is beyond Dispute, that the Right is inherent in*
 “*them.*” A Jury have likewise declared this in a solemn Verdict. I have been thus particular, my Lord, on this Subject, from our Records, because I differ in one Point from the last Opinion, which I quoted, for I know there is no Right or Privilege of this free People, or of Man-
 kind,

kind, but what has been *disputed*, and even *denied*, by pensioned Pens and Tongues in the Service of the arbitrary Ministers of arbitrary Kings.

Your Lordship, I am sure, will now no longer suffer a Doubt to remain in your Mind, as to the Legality of Common Halls, or of their extensive Powers, and, therefore, I presume to lay Claim, on Behalf of the Livery of *London*, to the antient Privilege of presenting to the King on the Throne, any Address, Petition, or Remonstrance. In this Manner have the Addressees of the Livery constantly been received, both by his present Majesty and all his Royal Predecessors, the Kings of *England*. On the most exact Research, I do not find a single Instance to the contrary. This immemorial Usage, in the Opinion of the ablest Lawyers, gives an absolute Right, and is as little subject to Controversy, as any fair or just Prerogative of the Crown. Other Rights and Privileges of the City have been invaded by despotic Monarchs, by several of the accursed Race of the *Stuarts*; but this in no Period of our History. It has not even been brought into Question till the present inauspicious *Æra*. I have an entire Confidence, my Lord, that a Right left uninvaded by every Tyrant of the *Tarquin* Race, will be sacredly preserved under the Government of our present Sovereign, because his Majesty is perfectly informed, that in consequence of their Expulsion,

pulsion, his Family was chosen to protect and defend the Rights of a free People, whom they endeavoured to enslave.

It cannot escape your Lordship's Recollection, that at all Times, when the Privileges of the Capital were attacked, very fatal Consequences ensued. The Invasion of the Liberties of the Nation, we have generally seen preceded by Attempts on the Franchises of the first City in the Kingdom; and the Shock has spread from the Centre to the most distant Point of the Circumference of this wide extended Empire. I hope his Majesty's Goodness will revoke an Order, which might perhaps, in this Light, be considered as ominous to the Citizens of this Metropolis. Such a Measure only could quiet the Alarm, which has already spread too far, and given gloomy Apprehensions of Futurity.

The Privilege, my Lord, for which I contend, is of a very great Moment, and peculiarly striking. When his Majesty receives on the Throne any Address, it is read by the proper Officer to the King in the Presence of the Petitioners. They have the Satisfaction of knowing that their Sovereign has heard their Complaints. They receive an Answer. If the same Address is presented at a Levee, or in any other Mode, no Answer is given. A Suspicion may arise that the Address is never heard or read, because it is only
received,

received, and immediately delivered to the Lord in waiting. If he is tolerably versed in the supple, insinuating Arts, practised in the magic Circle of a Court, he will take Care never to remind his Prince of any disagreeable and disgusting, however important and wholesome Truths. He will strangle in its Birth the fair Offspring of Liberty, because its Cries might awaken and alarm the Parent, and thus the common Father of all his People may remain equally ignorant and unhappy in his most weighty Concerns.

Important Truths, my Lord, were the Foundation of the last humble Address, Remonstrance and Petition to the King, respecting our brave Fellow-Subjects in *America*. The Greatness, as well as Goodness of the Cause, and the Horrors of an approaching Civil War, justified our Application to the Throne. It comprehended every Thing interesting to us as a free and commercial People, the first Principles of our common Liberty, and the immense Advantages of the only Trade we enjoy unrivaled by other Nations. I greatly fear that your Lordship's Letter, immediately following his Majesty's unfavourable Answer to the Remonstrance, will be considered as a fresh Mark of the King's Anger against our unhappy Brethren, as well as of his Displeasure against all the faithful Citizens of his Capital. The Livery, possessing the purest Intentions,

the most noble and exalted Views for the public Good, will comfort themselves with the Appeal of that Justice in the Sovereign's Heart, which cannot fail of soon restoring them to the Royal Favour; but the *Americans* may be driven to Despair, unless merciful Providence should graciously interpose, and change the obdurate Hearts of those unjust and wicked Ministers, who have been so long permitted, by divine Vengeance, to be a Scourge both to us and our Brethren. The true Friends of Liberty, I am sure, will not be remiss in their Duty. I doubt not, my Lord, from that Love of your Country, and Zeal for his Majesty's Glory, which have equally distinguished your Lordship, that the Livery of *London*, will have your hearty Concurrence with them, as well as your powerful Intercession with the King, for the Revocation of the late Order. Such a Conduct will secure to your Lordship the Esteem and Affection of all good Men, and add to the unfeigned Respect, with which I have the Honor to be

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient,
Humble Servant,
JOHN WILKES.

To the Right Honourable the
Earl of *Hertford*, Lord
Chamberlain of the King's
Household,

Resolved,

Resolved, that whoever advised His Majesty, to declare he would not in future receive on the Throne, any Address, Remonstrance and Petition from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Livery of *London*, are Enemies to the Right of the Subject to petition the Throne, because such Advice is calculated to intercept the Complaints of the People to their Sovereign, to prevent a Redress of Grievances, and alienate the Minds of *Englishmen* from the *Hanoverian* Succession.

Resolved, that it is the Opinion of this Common Hall, that unless his Majesty hears the Petitions of his Subjects, the Right of petitioning is nugatory.

A Motion being made and Question put, that an humble Address, Remonstrance and Petition be presented to His Majesty from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, on this important Crisis of *American* Affairs ; the same was resolved in the Affirmative.

And an Address, Remonstrance and Petition being produced, a Motion was made that the same be read, and the Question being put by Mr. Recorder, it was resolved in the Affirmative; whereupon the same was read as follows.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address, Remonstrance and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most faithful Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Livery, of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, are compelled again to disturb your Majesty's Repose with our Complaints.

We have already expressed to your Majesty our Abhorrence of the tyrannical Measures pursued against our Fellow-Subjects in *America*, as well as of the Men who secretly advise, and of the Ministers who execute these Measures. We desire to repeat again, that the Power contended for over the Colonies, under the specious Name of Dignity, is to all Intents and Purposes, *Despotism*—That the Exercise of despotic Power, in any Part of the Empire, is inconsistent with the Character and Safety of this Country.

As we would not suffer any Man, or Body of Men, to establish arbitrary Power over us, we cannot acquiesce in an Attempt to force it upon any Part of our Fellow-Subjects: We are persuaded, that by the sacred, unalterable Rights of human

human Nature; as well as by every Principle of the Constitution, the *Americans* ought to enjoy Peace, Liberty and Safety; that whatever Power invades these Rights ought to be resisted; we hold such Resistance, in Vindication of their constitutional Rights, to be their indispensable Duty to GOD, (from whom those Rights are derived;) to themselves, who cannot be safe and happy without them; to their Posterity, who have a Right to claim this Inheritance at their Hands unviolated and unimpaired.

We have already remonstrated to your Majesty, that these Measures were big with all the Consequences, which could alarm a free and commercial People; a deep, and perhaps, fatal Wound to Commerce;—the Ruin of Manufactures; the Diminution of the Revenue, and consequent Increase of Taxes; the Alienation of the Colonies; and the Blood of your Majesty's Subjects.

Unhappily, Sire, the worst of these Apprehensions is now realized in all its Horror. We have seen, with equal Dread and Concern a Civil War commenced in *America*, by your Majesty's Commander in Chief: Will your Majesty be pleased to consider, what must be the Situation of your People here, who having nothing now to expect from *America*, but Gazettes of Blood, and mutual Lists of their slaughtered Fellow-Subjects?

Every

Every Moment's Prosecution of this fatal War, may loosen irreparably the Bonds of that Connection, on which the Glory and Safety of the *British* Empire depend.

If any Thing could add to the Alarm of these Events, it is your Majesty's having declared your Confidence in the Wisdom of Men, a Majority of whom are notoriously bribed to betray their Constituents and their Country. It is the Misfortune of your Majesty, it is the Misfortune and Grief of your People, to have a Grand Council and a Representative, under an undue and dangerous Influence; an Influence, which though procured by your Ministers, is dangerous to your Majesty, by deceiving you, and to your People, by betraying them.

In such a Situation, your Petitioners are bound to declare to your Majesty, that they cannot and will not sit unconcerned; that they will exert themselves, at every Hazard, to bring those who have advised these ruinous Measures, to the Justice of this Country, and of the much injured Colonies.

We have already signified our Persuasion, that these Evils originate in the secret Advice of those, who are equally Enemies to your Majesty's Title, and to the Rights of your People. Your Petitioners are now compelled to say, that your Throne is
fur-

surrounded by Men, avowedly inimical to those Principles, on which your Majesty possesses the Crown, and this People their Liberties. At a Time of such Difficulty and Danger, public Confidence is essential to your Majesty's Repose, and to the Preservation of your People: Such Confidence cannot be obtained by Ministers and Advisers, who want Wisdom, and hold Principles incompatible with Freedom; nor can any Hope of Relief be expected from a Parliament, chosen under a national Delusion, insidiously raised, by Misrepresentations touching the true State of *America*, and artfully embraced by a precipitate Dissolution.

Your Petitioners therefore again pray and beseech your Majesty, to dismiss your present Ministers and Advisers, from your Person and Counsels for ever;—to dissolve a Parliament, who by various Acts of Cruelty and Injustice, have manifested a Spirit of Persecution against our Brethren in *America*, and given their Sanction to Popery and arbitrary Power; to put your future Confidence in Ministers, whose known and unshaken Attachment to the Constitution, joined to their Wisdom and Integrity, may enable your Majesty to settle this alarming Dispute, upon the sure, honourable and lasting Foundations of general Liberty,

WILKES,

W I L K E S, *Mayor.*

In a Meeting or Assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen and Livery of the several Companies of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, at the *Guildhall* of the said City, on *Tuesday*, the Fourth Day of *July*, 1775.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, acquainted the Livery, that the Sheriffs waited on his Majesty at *St. James's* on *Wednesday* last, and that Mr. Sheriff *Plomer* addressed his Majesty as follows :

May it please your Majesty,

WE are ordered by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Livery of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, to wait upon your Majesty, humbly to know your Majesty's Royal Will and Pleasure, when your Majesty will be pleased to receive upon the Throne, their humble Address, Remonstrance and Petition.

To

To which his Majesty answered,

YOU will please to take Notice, that I will receive their Address, Remonstrance and Petition, on *Friday* next, at the Levee.

Mr. Sheriff Plomer replied,

Your Majesty will permit us to inform you, that the Livery in Common Hall assembled, have resolved not to present their Address, Remonstrance and Petition, unless your Majesty shall be pleased to receive it sitting on the Throne.

To which his Majesty answered,

I am ever ready to receive Addresses and Petitions—but I am the Judge where.

The Lord Mayor then declared, that in Consequence of the Order of the Livery, that the Address, Remonstrance and Petition, should not be presented to the King but sitting on his Throne, the Sheriffs Report to him, and Lord *Hertford's* Letter; his Lordship had not attended his Majesty with the said Address.

Resolved, that the King is bound to hear the Petitions of his People, it being the undoubted Right of the Subject to be heard, and not a Matter of Grace and Favour.

Resolved, that his Majesty's Answer is a direct Denial of the Right of this Court to have their Petitions heard.

Resolved,

Resolved, that such Denial renders the Right of Petitioning the Throne, recognized and established by the Revolution, of no Effect.

Resolved, that whoever advised his Majesty, directly or indirectly, to refuse hearing the humble Address, Remonstrance and Petition of this Court on the Throne, is equally an Enemy to the Happiness and Security of the King, and to the Peace and Liberties of the People.

Resolved, that the following Instructions be given to our Representatives in Parliament.

Gentlemen,

YOU are instructed by the Livery in Common Hall assembled, to move immediately, on the next Meeting of Parliament, for an humble Address from the House of Commons, to his Majesty, requesting to know who were the Advisers of those fatal Measures which have planted Popery and arbitrary Power in *America*, have plunged us into a most unnatural Civil War, to the Subversion of the fundamental Principles of the *English* Liberty, the Ruin of our most valuable Commerce, and the Destruction of his Majesty's Subjects;—to know who were the Advisers of a Measure so dangerous to his Majesty's

jefty's Happiness and the Rights of his People, as refusing to hear the Petitions and Complaints of his Subjects: You are further instructed, Gentlemen, to move for an Impeachment of the Authors and Advisers of those Measures, that by bringing them to *Public Justice*, evil Councillors may be removed from before the King; his Throne may be established; the Rights of his People be vindicated; and the whole Empire restored to the Enjoyment of Peace, Liberty and Safety.

WILKES,

W I L K E S, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Friday* the 7th of *July*, 1775.

A Motion was made and Question put, that an humble Address and Petition be presented to his Majesty from this Court, praying that his Majesty will be pleased to suspend Hostilities against our Fellow-Subjects in *North America*, and adopt such conciliatory Measures as may restore Union, Confidence, and Peace to the whole Empire, the same was resolved in the Affirmative; which Petition was read and agreed to, as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most

Most Gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Majesty's most loyal and dutiful Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, with all Humility beg Leave to lay themselves at your Royal Feet, humbly imploring your benign Attention towards the grievous Destruction of their Fellow-Subjects in *America*.

The Characteristic of the People, Sire, over whom your Reign has ever been equally remarked for an unparalleled Loyalty to their Sovereign, whilst the Principles of the Constitution has been the Rule of his Government, as well as a firm Opposition whenever their Rights have been invaded.

Your *American* Subjects, Royal Sire, descended from the said Ancestors with ourselves, appear equally jealous of the Prerogatives of Freemen, without which they cannot deem themselves happy.

Their chearful and unasked-for Contributions, as well as willing Services to the Mother Country, whilst they remained free from the Clog of compulsory Laws, will, we are sure, plead powerfully with the Humanity of your Disposition,

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for

for graciously granting them every reasonable Opportunity of giving, as Freemen, what they seem resolutely determined to refuse under the Injunction of Laws made independent of their own Consent,

The Abhorrence we entertain of civil Bloodshed and Confusion, will, we trust, Sire, if not wholly exculpate us in your Royal Mind, yet plead powerfully in our Favour for the Warmth with which we lament those Measures, whose destructive Principles have driven our *American* Brethren to Acts of Desperation.

Convinced of the earnest Disposition of the Colonists to remain firm in all dutious Obedience to the constitutional Authority of this Kingdom, permit us, most gracious Sovereign, to beseech you, that those Operations of Force, which at present distract them with the most dreadful Apprehensions, may be suspended, and that, untroubled by a Restraint incompatible with a free Government, they may possess an Opportunity of tendering such Terms of Accommodation as we doubt not will approve them worthy of a distinguished Rank amongst the firmest Friends of this Country.

His

*His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 14th Day of
July, 1775.*

I am always ready to listen to the dutiful Petitions of my Subjects, and ever happy to comply with their reasonable Requests; but while the constitutional Authority of this Kingdom is openly resisted by a Part of my *American* Subjects, I owe it to the rest of my People, of whose Zeal and Fidelity I have had such constant Proofs, to continue and enforce those Measures, by which alone their Rights and Interests can be asserted and maintained.

W I L K E S, *Mayor.*

In a Meeting or Assembly of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Liverymen of the several Companies of the City of *London*, in Common Hall assembled, at the *Guildhall* of the said City, on *Friday*, the 29th Day of *Sept.* 1775.

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor acquainted the Livery that he had received a Letter from the Congress at *Philadelphia*, directed to his Lordship and the Livery of *London*, and, if it was their Pleasure, he would read it, which being desired by the Livery, his Lordship then read the Letter, which follows in these Words:

H 2

My

My Lord,

PERMIT the Delegates of the People of twelve antient Colonies to pay your Lordship, and the very respectable Body of which you are Head, the just Tribute of Gratitude and Thanks, for the virtuous and unsolicited Resentment you have shewn to the violated Rights of a free People. The City of *London*, My Lord, having, in all Ages, approved itself the Patron of Liberty, and the Support of just Government, against lawless Tyranny and Oppression, cannot fail to make us deeply sensible of the powerful Aid our Cause must receive from such Advocates: A Cause, My Lord, worthy the Support of the first City in the World, as it involves the Fate of a great Continent, and threatens to shake the Foundations of a flourishing, and, until lately, a happy Empire.

North America, My Lord, wishes most ardently for a lasting Connection with *Great Britain*, on Terms of just and equal Liberty; less than which generous Minds will not offer, nor brave and free ones be willing to receive.

A cruel War has, at length, been opened against us, and, whilst we prepare to defend ourselves, like the Descendants of *Britons*, we still hope that the Mediation of wise and good Citizens

zens will at length prevail over Despotism, and restore Harmony and Peace on permanent Principles, to an oppressed and divided Empire.

We have the Honor to be, My Lord, with great Esteem,

Your Lordship's

Faithful Friends and Fellow-Subjects.

By Order of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

To the Right Honourable the
Lord Mayor and Livery of
the City of *London*.

Mr. Deputy *Piper* acquainted the Livery, that at a previous Meeting of the Livery, at the *Half Moon Tavern*, in *Cheapside*, on *Monday Evening* last, at which Meeting he was Chairman, it was by them agreed, that an Address to the Electors of *Great Britain*, on the present alarming Crisis of public Grievances, be recommended from that Meeting to the Consideration of the next Common Hall : And an Address being accordingly produced, a Motion was made, and Question put, that the said Address be now read, it was resolved in the Affirmative, and the said Address was read and agreed to, as follows :

The Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of *London*, in Common Hall assembled.

To the ELECTORS of Great Britain.

Gentlemen,

THE Mischiefs which have already arisen, and the greater Calamities which are threatened, from the unnatural War excited in *America*, by the arbitrary and inexorable Spirit of his Majesty's Ministers and Advisers, have impressed our Minds with Alarms and Apprehensions, which occasions this Address to You.

As

As Electors, we are more particularly called upon to take into Consideration these dangerous Proceedings against our Fellow-Subjects in *America*, because the Representatives of the People are unhappily made the Instruments of these Measures.

It is impossible we can see, without the utmost Alarm, Preparations making for the Prosecution of an expensive and ruinous War with our own Colonies, from which so much of our Commerce, and therefore the Sources of our Wealth are derived. The inevitable Consequence of this must be an Increase of Taxes, already too heavy; and an Addition to the National Debt, which presses us at this Time with intolerable Weight. We beg you to consider, what must be the Situation of this Kingdom, under an Augmentation of Taxes and a Diminution of Commerce; — an Increase of National Debt, and an equal Decrease of National Resources.

These are the immediate and unavoidable Consequences of this War; — the probable ones are still more fatal. If our natural and inveterate Enemies should fall upon us, when we are exhausted of Men and Money, when our most valuable Commerce is ruined, and our bravest and veteran Troops sacrificed, what is it that can

shield us from immediate Ruin? If we involve ourselves then in this obstinate and expensive Civil War, we must owe our Safety to the Forbearance of our Enemies:—Neither do we think it improbable, from the desperate Valour with which the *Americans* defend their dearest Liberties, that all our Efforts will be unsuccessful, and that we shall at last be obliged to sit down, under a grievous Addition of Debt; the Shame of defeated Armaments; and the total Loss of our useful and affectionate Colonies.

The Provision that is making for the Introduction of *Hanoverian* and *Hessian* Troops, instead of removing, confirms our Apprehensions, because we cannot have any Confidence in the Protection of foreign Mercenaries; and feel at once the Shame and Folly of that Policy, which is to burthen us with Taxes for the Payment of foreign Protectors, while our own brave Troops are slaughtered in an unnatural, unnecessary, inglorious Contest.

For the certain Expences of this War, we see no Reparation, even in Conquest; desolated Fields and depopulated Provinces, are little likely to contribute to our Necessities, either by Revenue or Commerce. No Complaint from the Merchants and Manufacturers in *Great-Britain*, of illicit

licit Trade, and Acts of Navigation infringed, has called for these coercive Measures; on the contrary, they have repeatedly petitioned against the Principles upon which the War is founded: To secure our Commerce, therefore, can neither be the Aim, nor Issue of this War; neither can it be to settle a due Subordination of the Colonies upon the present State, since they have repeatedly and solemnly acknowledged their Subordination, and submitted to our Controul.

We cannot, therefore, discover any real Object or possible Event of this Dispute, (should we be successful) but that of establishing the arbitrary Power of the Crown over our Fellow-Subjects in *America*, which must greatly endanger the Constitution here, and encreasing the Number of Placemen and Pensioners already so enormous, as to threaten the utter Destruction of Freedom and Independence among us.

The People of the Colonies have appealed to their Fellow-Subjects in *Great-Britain*, for the Justice and Necessity of their Conduct; We are convinced of their having been injured and oppressed; We sympathize in their Grievs, and revere their Fortitude; Every Motive of Humanity, of Justice, and of Interest, calls upon us to condemn the Measures of which they complain;

plain; and to declare, that we will never willingly contribute to urge their Oppressions or abridge their Liberties.

It has been our Grief and our Misfortune to see, that the repeated Petitions, from his Majesty's Subjects in *America*, supported by many in this Country, have not availed to prevent the dreadful Extremities we now lament. The Petitioners have been studiously driven to the last Resources of Despair, by a Denial of Redress, and an Accumulation of Grievances, too severe to be endured by a free People.

In the united Petition last Year, from all the Colonies to the King, they asked for Peace, Liberty, and Safety. Did it become us to refuse such a Request, or to persist in violating the Peace, Liberty, and Safety of any Part of our Fellow-Subjects? They pledge themselves, "that in Time of War, they will be ready and willing to demonstrate their Loyalty to his Majesty, by exerting their most strenuous Efforts, in granting Supplies and raising Forces." What can we in Justice require more from a Part of the Empire, restrained in Point of commercial Advantages for our Benefit; and labouring in consequence of that Restraint, under a heavy
and

and accumulating Debt? Can we expect Success from a War founded in such flagrant Injustice? Appealing, say they, "to that Being, who searches thoroughly the Hearts of his Creatures, we solemnly profess that our Councils have been influenced by no other Motive, than a Dread of impending Destruction."

That Dread has been realized; Famine, Fire, and Sword have answered their reasonable Requests and earnest Supplications; utter Destruction or unconditional Submission, is the only Alternative left them by this imperious and intemperate Administration.

Yet still they were determined to try the Force of fresh Supplications; this they have done in their late Petition to the Throne, more humble, but still fruitless as the former. They say, "Knowing to what violent Resentments and incurable Animosities, civil Discords are apt to exasperate and inflame the contending Parties, we think ourselves required by indispensable Obligations to Almighty GOD, to your Majesty, to our Fellow-Subjects and ourselves, immediately to use all the Means in our Power, not incompatible with our Safety, for stopping the further Effusion of Blood, and for averting
" the

“ the impending Calamities which threaten the
 “ *British* Empire.”

We feel these, as the most amiable Sentiments of Men, cordially interested in our Welfare; and earnestly aiming at Peace and Reconciliation.

In pursuit of these laudable Purposes, they solemnly declare their most ardent Desire, that “ the
 “ former Harmony between the two Countries
 “ may be restored, and a Concord may be established between them, upon so firm a Basis, as
 “ to perpetuate its Blessing, uninterrupted by
 “ any future Dissentions, to succeeding Generations in both Countries;” they declare, that
 “ they do not request such a Reconciliation as
 “ might in any Manner be inconsistent with the
 “ Dignity and Welfare of *Great Britain* ;” that
 “ they are ready and willing at all Times, as they
 “ have ever been, with their Lives and Fortunes,
 “ to assert and maintain the Rights and Interests
 “ of his Majesty, and of their Mother Country;” they therefore implore his Majesty “ to take Measures for preventing the further Destruction of
 “ the Lives of his Subjects, and that he will be
 “ pleased to direct some Mode by which the
 “ united Applications of his faithful Colonists
 “ to the Throne, in pursuance of their Common
 “ Councils,

“ Councils, may be improved into a happy and
 “ permanent Reconciliation ; and that the wished-
 “ for Opportunity may soon be restored to them,
 “ of evincing the Sincerity of their Professions,
 “ by every Testimony of Devotion becoming the
 “ most dutiful Subjects and the most affectionate
 “ Colonists.”

To this Petition an Answer has been refused :
 The unhappy Petitioners are left to deplore the
 Prospect of an inexorable War and Desolation,
 and to seek Protection in those fatal Resources
 which Self-preservation suggests against impending
 Destruction.

This, Gentlemen, is the alarming State of
America, which fills us with Anxiety and Appre-
 hensions.

We lament the Blood that has been already
 shed. We deplore the Fate of those brave Men,
 who are devoted to hazard their Lives, not
 against the Enemies of the *British* Name, but
 against the Friends of the Prosperity and Glory of
Great-Britain. We feel for the Honor of the
British Arms sullied,---not by the Misbehaviour
 of those who bore them, but by the Misconduct
 of the Ministers, who employed them, to the
 Oppres-

Oppression of their Fellow-Subjects: We are alarmed at the immediate, insupportable Expence, and the probable Consequences of a War, which we are convinced originates in Violence and Injustice, and must end in Ruin.

These are the Sentiments, Gentlemen, which we take the Liberty of communicating to you, as the Reasons upon which we have acted; trusting that, if they meet with your Approbation, you will co-operate with us, in endeavouring to bring the Authors of these Evils, to the Justice of their Country.

S A W-

S A W B R I D G E, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildball* of the City of *London*, on *Thursday*, the 14th Day of *March*, 1776.

RESOLVED, That the Thanks of this Court be given to the Reverend *Richard Price*, Doctor in Divinity, Fellow of the Royal Society, for having laid down in his late Publication of "Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty, &c." those sure Principles upon which alone the supreme legislative Authority of *Great Britain* over her Colonies, can be justly or beneficially maintained, and for holding forth those public Objects, without which it must be totally indifferent to the Kingdom who are IN, or who are OUT of Power.

A Motion being made, and Question put, That the Freedom of this City be presented in a Gold Box, of the Value of Fifty Pounds, to the Reverend Dr. *Richard Price*, as a grateful Testimony of the Approbation of this Court, for his late Pamphlet, intituled, "Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty, the Principles of Government, and the Justice and Policy of the
" War

“War with *America*,” and that the Chamberlain do attend him with the same; the same was resolved in the Affirmative, and ordered accordingly.

RESOLVED, That this Court do present to his Majesty an humble and dutiful Address and Petition, that the most solemn, clear, distinct, and unambiguous Specification of the just and honourable Terms which his Majesty, with both Houses of Parliament, means to grant to the Colonies, may precede the dreadful Operations of his Armament; which Address and Petition was read and agreed to, as follows:

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, beg Leave to approach your Throne, and to intreat your Majesty's Royal Attention, whilst, with the Humility of dutiful Subjects, we lay before your Majesty, what at present most immediately affects us in the Spirit and Tendency of the public Measures now depending, and the

Anxiety

Anxiety we feel at the naked and exposed State in which this Country will be left, by draining it of the National Troops, as well as at the Danger and Disgrace attending the late Treaties for foreign Mercenaries, whose Latitude is such as to provide the Means of introducing a foreign Army into this Realm.

We cannot, Sir, without Horror, look forward to that Dismemberment of the Empire, that Increase of the National Debt, and of burthenfome Taxes, the Loss of our most valuable Resources, those Distresses of our Merchants and Manufacturers, those Deficiencies of the Revenue, that Effusion of the Blood of our Countrymen and Brethren, that Failure of Public Credit, and those dreadful Calamities and Convulsions, which must follow a Civil War, so begun and pursued, whose Extent no Wisdom can foresee.

We humbly conceive that no People can be bound to surrender their Rights and Liberties, as a Return for Protection; the Colonies have fought our Battles with us; and in the last War they so far exceeded their Abilities, that this Nation thought it just and necessary to make them an annual Compensation: And even now, driven to open Hostilities in their own Defence, they are willing (their Charters being inviolably secured), to continue to us all those Advantages of regular

and exclusive Commerce, to which we have long owed our Opulence and Prosperity; and we have every Assurance which Men in their Situation can safely give, that, if asked as Freemen, they are willing to go farther, and to afford to the exhausted State of the Revenue of this Country, such reasonable and voluntary Aid as their Abilities permit, provided that their Contributions are unalienably applied to relieve that Distress, which is the only fair and politic Foundation of requiring them; and that neither their Aids, nor our own sinking Funds, shall be any longer perverted from a public Benefit, and misapplied to the Purpose of Corruption, instead of redeeming the Debts of the Nation, according to its first wish and just Institution.

Indulge but, most gracious Sovereign, the Humanity and Benignity of your own Royal Disposition, and our Prayers will be granted: We implore the Extension of your Majesty's Justice and Mercy toward that Continent, which, when Arbiter of the Terms of Peace, it was your Majesty's own Determination to prefer to every other Compensation, for all the Expences of the last War.

We humbly and earnestly beseech your Majesty, that the most solemn, clear, distinct, and unambiguous Specification of those just and honourable Terms which your Majesty, with both Houses

Houses of Parliament, mean to grant to the Colonies, may precede the dreadful Operations of your Armament : every Colour and Suspicion of Injustice and Oppression will then be removed from the Proceedings of the Mother Country, and if those just and honourable Terms are not submitted to, your Majesty will undoubtedly be enabled to meet, what will then be Rebellion, with the zealous Hearts and Hands of a determined, loyal, and united People.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 22d Day of March, 1776.

I deplore with the deepest Concern the Miseries which a great Part of my Subjects in *North America*, have brought upon themselves, by an unjustifiable Resistance to the Constitutional Authority of this Kingdom ; and I shall be ready and happy to alleviate those Miseries by Acts of Mercy and Clemency, whenever that Authority is established, and the now existing Rebellion is at an End. To obtain these salutary Purposes, I will invariably pursue the most proper and effectual Means.

S A W B R I D G E, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildball* of the City of *London*, on *Monday*, the 29th Day of *April*, 1776.

A Motion being made, and Question put, That an humble Address of Congratulation, be presented to his Majesty by this Court, on the safe Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Princess, the same was resolved in the Affirmative, and ordered accordingly; which Address was read and agreed to, as follows;

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

YOUR Majesty's loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, approach

proach your Majesty with their Congratulations on the happy Delivery of their most amiable Queen, and the Birth of another Princess; and to assure your Majesty, that there are not in all your Dominions any Subjects more faithful, or more ready to maintain the true Honor and Dignity of your Crown. They will continue to rejoice at every Event which adds to your Majesty's domestic Felicity: And they hope, that every Branch of the August House of *Brunswick*, will add further Security to those sacred Laws and Liberties, which their Ancestors would not suffer to be violated with Impunity, and which in consequence of the glorious and necessary Revolution, that illustrious House was called forth to protect and defend.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 3d Day of May, 1776.

I thank you for this dutiful Address on the happy Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Princess.

The Security of the Laws and Liberties of my People has always been and ever shall be the Object of my Care and Attention.

Further Proceedings of the 29th Day of *April*,
1776.

THE Town-Clerk acquainted this Court, that according to the Order of the last Court, he had waited with their Vote of Thanks, on the Reverend *Richard Price*, Doctor in Divinity, Fellow of the Royal Society, to which he had received the following Answer.

S I R,

I request the Favour of you to convey to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, my warmest Acknowledgments, for the very condescending Resolution of Thanks with which they have honoured my Observations of Civil Liberty. These Observations were written with no other Intention than to plead the Cause of Liberty and Justice, and to remind this Country of the dreadful Danger of its present Situation. The Testimony of Approbation which they have received from a Body so respectable, annually elected by the first City in the World, and so distinguished for giving an Example of Zeal in the Cause of Liberty, will, it may be hoped,

hoped, lead the Public to fix their Views more on such Measures, as shall save a sinking Constitution, and preserve us from impending Calamities.

I am,

Sir,

With great Respect,

Your most Obedient and

Newington-Green,
March 23, 1776.

Humble Servant,

RICHARD PRICE.

To *William Rix*, Esquire, Town-Clerk of
the City of *London*.

S A W.

S A W B R I D G E, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber
of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on
Tuesday, the 23^d Day of *July*, 1776.

This Day, Mr. Chamberlain laid before this
Court, a Letter he had received from the Rev.
Doctor *Price*, which was read in these
Words.

Newington Green, *July* 21, 1776.

S I R,

I am very happy in the Opportunity
given me, by receiving from your Hands the
Freedom of the City of *London*, to repeat my
Thanks to the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen, and
Common Council for the great Honor they have
done me; it is impossible I should not be deeply
impressed by Testimonies of their Approbation
so condescending and generous. May the City of
London

London always flourish, and may the Kingdom be delivered from the dreadful Danger with which it is threatened by the present Civil War.

I am, Sir,

With great Respect,

Your most Obedient and

Humble Servant,

RICHARD PRICE.

To *Benjamin Hopkins*, Esquire, Chamberlain of the City of *London*.

H A L

H A L L I F A X, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Friday*, the 14th Day of *February*, 1777.

A Motion was made and Question put, That this Court doth agree to petition the Honourable House of Commons, against the Bill now depending in that Honourable House, intituled, "A Bill to empower his Majesty to secure and detain Persons charged with, or suspected of the Crime of High Treason, committed in *North America*, or on the High Seas, or the Crime of Piracy;" the same was unanimously resolved in the Affirmative; which Petition is as follows :

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Sheweth,

Sheweth,

THAT your Petitioners have seen a Bill depending in this Honourable House, “ To empower his Majesty to secure and detain Persons charged with, or suspected of the Crime of High Treason committed in *North America*, or on the High Seas, or the Crime of Piracy.”

That if the said Bill should pass into a Law, your Petitioners are apprehensive it will create Uneasiness in the Minds of many of his Majesty's good Subjects, and tend to excite the most alarming Disturbances, all Persons indiscriminately being liable upon the Ground of Suspicion alone, without any Oath made, and without convening the Parties, or hearing what they can alledge in their own Justification, to be committed to a remote Prison in any Corner of the Realm, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize.

That the *Habeas Corpus*, which is the great Security of the Liberties of the People, will be suspended.

That your Petitioners are deeply affected with what they conceive will be the dangerous Consequence of such a Law, as from little Motives of Resentment, and various other Inducements, there may be Persons competent to commit, who
may

may be tempted to exercise that Power in its utmost Latitude and Extent.

That Measures so violent and unconstitutional, so subversive of the sacred and fundamental Rights of the People, subjecting them to the most cruel Oppression and Bondage, will in the Judgment of your Petitioners, be introductive of every Species of Mischief and Confusion, and thereby precipitate the impending Ruin of this Country.

Your Petitioners therefore earnestly beseech this Honourable House, that the said Bill may not pass into a Law, or at least to take such Care, as in their Wisdom may seem meet, to prevent it from being extended in its Operation or Construction to any of his Majesty's Subjects resident in these Kingdoms.

And your Petitioners, as in Duty bound, shall ever pray, &c.

HALLIFAX,

H A L L I F A X, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Tuesday*, the 4th Day of *November*, 1777.

A Motion being made, and Question put, That an humble Address of Congratulation, be presented to his Majesty, by this Court, on the safe Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Princess, the same was resolved in the Affirmative ; which Address was read and agreed to, as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, humbly beg Leave to express our unfeigned
Joy

Joy upon the happy Delivery of our most gracious Queen, and the Birth of another Princess ; an Event which we consider as an additional Strength to the present happy Establishment, in your Majesty's illustrious Family ; and as a further Security for the Enjoyment of our excellent Constitution in Church and State.

Long may your Majesty reign the true Guardian of the Liberties of this free Country, and be the Instrument in the Hands of Providence, of transmitting to our Posterity, those invaluable Rights and Privileges, which are the Birthright of the Subjects of this Kingdom.

*His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 7th Day of
November, 1777.*

I thank you for this dutiful Address, and your loyal Congratulations on the happy Delivery of the Queen, and the Birth of another Princess.

It is my invariable Object to preserve and transmit entire, the Constitutional Liberties of my People, which I shall ever consider as forming the Basis of my Government.

ESDAILE,

ESDAILE, Mayor.

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the *Guildhall* of the City of *London*, on *Wednesday*, the 4th Day of *March*, 1778.

A Motion being made, and Question put, That an humble Address and Petition be presented to his Majesty, praying that such conciliatory Measures may be adopted between *Great-Britain* and *America*, as may put a speedy End to the destructive War in which we are now engaged; the same was unanimously resolved in the Affirmative; which Address and Petition was agreed to, as follows :

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.

The humble Address and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of *London*, in Common Council assembled, attached to your Majesty's Royal House by Principle, to your Person by the truest Affection, and to the Honor and Prosperity of your Government by every Interest which can be dear to the Heart of Man, in this present deplorable State of the Affairs of this once great and flourishing Country, with most profound Humility implore Leave to lay ourselves at your Majesty's Feet, to represent to your Majesty the Sentiments and Wishes of a faithful and afflicted People.

When

When this Civil War was first threatened, your loyal City of *London*, in Concurrence with the Sense of many other respectable public Bodies of your Kingdom, and many of the wisest and best of your Subjects did, most humbly deprecate this Evil, foreboding, but too truly the Charges, Calamities, and Disgraces, of which it has been hitherto productive, and the greater to which it is still likely to subject this Kingdom.

Your faithful People, on that Occasion, had the Misfortune to receive from your Majesty, an Answer more suitable to the imperfect Manner in which (they fear) they expressed Sentiments full of Duty, than to your Majesty's own most gracious Disposition, their inviolable Reverence to their Sovereign, and their unshaken Zeal for his true Glory; they retired in a mournful and respectful Silence, patiently awaiting the Disposition of Providence, and the Return of your Majesty's Favour and Countenance, whenever Experience should fully disclose in its true Light, the well-founded Nature of their Apprehensions, and the fatal Tendency of those Counsels, by which the Nation has been misled.

For misled, and deceived, your Majesty and many of your Subjects have been. No Pains have been omitted to hide from both, the true Nature of the Business, in which we are engaged;

no Arts have been left untried to stimulate the Passions of your Subjects in this Kingdom; and, we are confident, that infinitely more Skill and Attention have been used to engage us in this War, than have been employed to conduct it to Honor or Advantage; if Honor or Advantage could be obtained by any Conduct in such a War. We have been industriously taught to suspect the Professions, and to despise the Resistance of our Brethren (*Englishmen* like ourselves) whom we had no sort of Reason to think deficient in the Sincerity and Courage which have ever distinguished that Name and Race; their Inclinations have been misrepresented; their natural Faculties depreciated; their Resources miscalculated; their Feelings insulted; until Fury and Despair supplying whatever might be defective in Force. We have seen a whole Army, the Flower of the trained Military Strength of *Great Britain*, and her Allies, famishing in the Wilderness of *America*, laying down their Arms, and owing their immediate Rescue from Death, to those very Men, whom the Murders and Rapines of the Savages (unhappily employed) had forced from Husbandmen into Soldiers, and who had been painted in such Colours of Contempt, as to take away all Consolation from our Calamity.

We have seen another Army, equally brave, and equally well commanded, for two Years in an almost

almost continued Course of Victory, by which they have only wasted their own Numbers, without decreasing the Strength of the resisting Power; without leading to any sort of Submission, or bringing to your Majesty's Obedience, even the smallest and weakest of Thirteen revolted Provinces. The Union of those Provinces amongst themselves, and their Animosity to your Majesty's Administration, have only been encreased by the injudicious Methods taken to break the one, and to subdue the other: Fleets and Armies are maintained in Numbers almost equal, and at an Expence comparatively far superior to whatever has been employed in the most glorious and successful Struggles of this Country, against a Combination of the most antient and formidable Monarchies of *Europe*. A few inconsiderable detached Islands, and one deserted Town on the Continent, where your Majesty's combined Army has a perilous and insecure Footing, are the only Fruits of an Expence exceeding Twenty Millions; of Ninety-three Ships of War; Sixty Thousand of the best Soldiers which could be procured, either at Home or Abroad, and appointed for that special Service. Your Majesty's Forces, both by Sea and Land, have (we are told) done all that could be expected from the most accomplished Discipline, and the most determined Courage, and yet, the total Defeat of some of these Forces,

and the ineffectual Victories of others, have almost equally conspired to the Destruction of your Power, and the Dismemberment of your Empire. We should be unpardonably negligent of our Duty to your Majesty, to ourselves, and to our Country, if we did not thus solemnly express our Feelings upon this dreadful and decisive Proof, of the Madness with which this Attempt was originally made; and which faithfully following it through every Step of its Progress, and every Measure for its Execution, has compleated, by uniform Misconduct, the Mischiefs which were commenced in total Ignorance. We are convinced, that not the Delusions of artful and designing Men, (which, like every Thing false, cannot be permanent) but the general Sense of the whole *American* People, is set and determined against the Plans of Coercion, civil and military, which have been hitherto employed against them; an whole united and irritated People cannot be conquered; if the Force now employed cannot do it, no Force within our Abilities will do it.

The Wealth of this Nation is great; and our Disposition would be to pour it out with the most unreserved and chearful Liberality, for the Support of the Honor and Dignity of your Crown. But domestic Peace and domestic OEconomy are the only Means of supplying Expence for War
abroad

abroad. In this Contest, our Resources are exhausted, whilst those of our Rivals are spared; and we are, every Year of the continuance of
 !!! this War, altering the Balance of our public Strength and Riches in their Favour.

We think ourselves bound, most dread Sovereign, to express our Fears and Apprehensions to your Majesty, that at a Time when your Majesty's gracious Speech from the Throne has hinted, and your vast Naval Preparations, in a Style much more explicit, announce to us and the World, the critical State in which we stand; with regard to the great neighbouring Powers, we have not the Comfort to learn, from that Speech, from any Assurance of your Majesty's Servants, or even from common Fame, that any Alliance whatever has been made with the other great States of *Europe*, in order to cover us from the complicated Perils so manifestly imminent over this Nation; we have as little Reason to be certain that Alliances of the most dangerous Kind are not formed against us.

In this State of anxious Doubt and Danger, we have Recourse to the Clemency and Wisdom of your Majesty, the tender Parent and vigilant
 !!! Guardian of your People; that you will graciously

ously take such Measures as may restore internal Peace, and (as far as the miserable Circumstances into which the late destructive Courses have brought us, will permit) re-unite the *British* Nation in some happy, honourable, and permanent Conjunction; lest the Colonies, exasperated by Rigours of continued War, should become totally alienated from their Parent Country; lest every remaining Spark of their Affection should be extinguished in Habits of mutual Slaughter and Rapine; and lest, in some evil Hour, they who have hitherto been the great Support of the *British* Strength, should become the most formidable and lasting Accession to the constant Enemies of the Power and Prosperity of your Kingdoms.

We humbly hope and trust, that your Majesty will give all due Efficacy to the Concessions (we wish those Concessions may not have come too late) which have been proposed in Parliament: And we have that undoubted Reliance on the Magnanimity of your Majesty's enlarged and Kingly Affections, that we are under no Apprehensions of your Majesty's being biaſſed by private Partiality to any Set of Men, in a Case where the Good, where the very Being of your People is at Stake: And, with an humble Confidence, we implore and supplicate your Majesty, that

that nothing may stand in the Way of those Arrangements, in your Councils and executive Offices, which may best forward the great, necessary, and blessed Work of Peace, which may tend to rescue your Affairs from unwise and improvident Management, and which may obtain, improve, and secure the returning Confidence of all your People: In such Measures and such Arrangements, for such an End, your Citizens of *London* will never fail to give your Majesty their most affectionate and steady Support.

His Majesty's Answer, delivered the 13th of March, 1778.

I can never think, that the Zeal of my Subjects, the Resources of my Kingdoms, and the Bravery of my Fleets and Armies, can have been unwisely and improvidently exerted, when the Object was to maintain the constitutional Subordination, which ought to prevail through the several Parts of my Dominions, and is essential to the Prosperity of the Whole: But I have always lamented the Calamities inseparable from a State of War; and shall most earnestly give all the Efficacy in my Power to those Measures which the Legislature has adopted, for the Purpose of restoring, by some happy, honourable, and permanent Conciliation, the Blessings of Peace, Commerce, Affection and Confidence, between the Mother Country and the Colonies.

